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

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THE PREMIER CUTLERY MAGAZINE

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Thousands of people looked at thousands of products at the 2015 Blade Show, and we've gathered up images and info on some of the newest and best that companies have to offer.

BY GARRETT LUCAS AND JOSHUA SWANAGON

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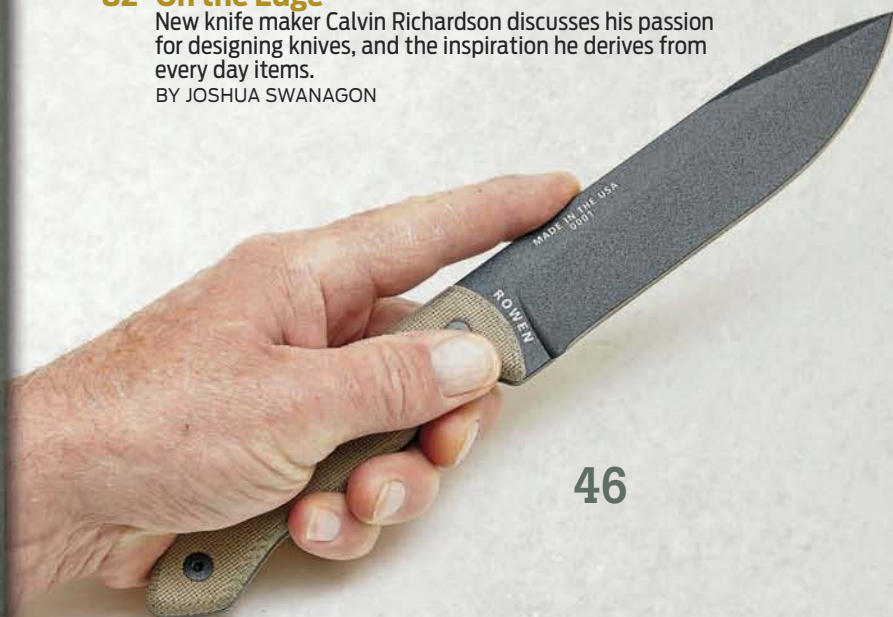
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New knife maker Calvin Richardson discusses his passion for designing knives, and the inspiration he derives from every day items.

BY JOSHUA SWANAGON



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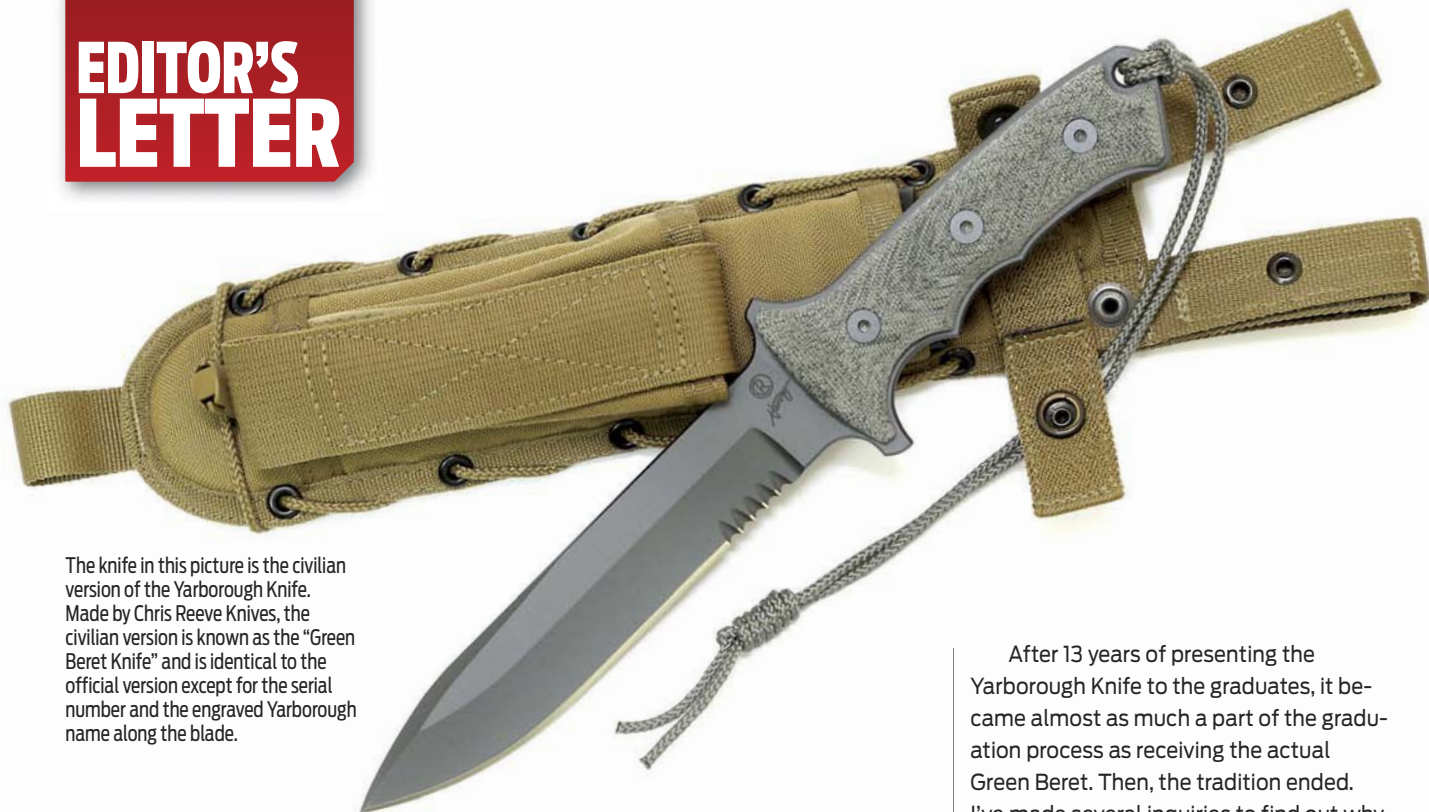
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The knife in this picture is the civilian version of the Yarborough Knife. Made by Chris Reeve Knives, the civilian version is known as the "Green Beret Knife" and is identical to the official version except for the serial number and the engraved Yarborough name along the blade.

# The Value of Tradition

## Honor. Valor. Integrity.

These are cornerstones upon which the U.S. military is built ... as is tradition.

One such tradition for graduates of the Special Forces Qualification Course was to be presented The Yarborough Knife along with the Green Beret. The Yarborough Knife represents the excellence of each recipient's efforts to surpass normal military standards and become members of an elite fighting force. What symbol could be more appropriate?

In this issue, we talk about various tactical knives, and we even review a tactical knife designed specifically for an element of the Canadian Special Operations Regiment. That article was a great segue to remembering the First Special Service Force which is the ancestor of all modern special operations groups in service for the United States today — including the Green Berets.

**"...THOUGH THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR VALUES AND BELIEFS SOMETIMES SEEMS TO BE SLOWLY DISMANTLED ONE BRICK AT A TIME, WE CAN REBUILD IT THE SAME WAY."**

While doing the aforementioned article, I was made aware of the fact that the graduates of the Special Forces Qualification Course are no longer presented with the traditional Yarborough Knife, as of early this year. The tradition began in August of 2002. The knife is named after Lt. General William P. Yarborough, who is known as the "father of modern Special Forces" because of his deep involvement in establishing the Special Forces as a significant part of the United States military.

After 13 years of presenting the Yarborough Knife to the graduates, it became almost as much a part of the graduation process as receiving the actual Green Beret. Then, the tradition ended. I've made several inquiries to find out why, and haven't received a definitive answer, although the general consensus is cut-backs in military funding.

We do little enough for active service members and veterans. We certainly don't compensate them well enough, considering the level of dedication, commitment, and sacrifice required to be a member of the military. If we can't pay them enough, the least that we can do is to value and honor the traditions that imbue them with the pride and fortitude necessary to step onto the field for our country.

There is some talk between interested parties about trying to get this tradition reinstated, though there's not been much headway. People involved with the issue are trying to keep hope alive, and get the program back into place. It will only get tougher as time passes, and I ask that anyone with any relevant influence jump in and help reinstate this tradition.

Even though the framework of our values and beliefs sometimes seems to be slowly dismantled one brick at a time, we can rebuild it the same way. We can restore who we were as a nation, and we can stand with those valiant souls by pledging our commitment to them, and by honoring the challenges they must overcome to serve in our stead. **KI**  
— Garrett Lucas

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# Name the Maker

SCORE A CHANCE TO WIN A SUBSCRIPTION BY  
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We congratulate *Knives Illustrated* reader Bobby Dick, who correctly identified Ron Best as the maker of the knife featured in our May/June issue.

## HOW TO WIN

If you correctly identify the maker of the featured knife, you will be entered into a drawing for a free one-year subscription to *Knives Illustrated*. If you're already a subscriber, you may choose to extend your current subscription or receive a subscription to one of our sister magazines, *Gun World* or *Bow & Arrow Hunting*.

All entries must be received by 4 p.m. PST on August 31st.

Winners are determined by placing entries in numerical order and generating a random number using [www.random.org](http://www.random.org).

Please submit guesses to [djeffrey@engagedmediainc.com](mailto:djeffrey@engagedmediainc.com) and specify your preferred prize option. Please also include the mailing address where you would like to receive your subscription should you win.

**HINT:** This maker was born in Hawaii and specializes in the area of historic blades. One of his models is in a museum in Ireland, alongside the original version from the 15th century.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates and locations subject to change; please contact the show managers before arranging your travel.

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KANSAS CITY, MO  
International Custom Cutlery Exposition  
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[harveydeanknives@gmail.com](mailto:harveydeanknives@gmail.com)

### SEPT. 19-20

EASTON, PA  
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[www.PAKnifeShow.com](http://www.PAKnifeShow.com)

### OCT. 10-11

GARDEN GROVE, CA  
California Custom Knife Show  
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### OCT. 24-25

PORTLAND, OR  
Portland Custom Knife Show  
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[info@christinepalmer.net](mailto:info@christinepalmer.net)

### NOV. 6-7

MOUNT VERNON, IL  
Mount Vernon Knife Show  
(618) 242-4514  
[jckkc@yahoo.com](mailto:jckkc@yahoo.com)

### NOV. 7-8

SLIDELL, LA  
Slidell Gun and Knife Show  
[www.SlidellGunandKnifeShow.com](http://www.SlidellGunandKnifeShow.com)

### NOV. 16

MARLBORO, MA  
Marlboro, MA Knife Show  
(978) 544-5348  
[Indcain2@aol.com](mailto:Indcain2@aol.com)

# A First for Everything

AFTER THE COMPETITION WAS OVER, JESSICA SAID, "I HELD MY OWN, AND I LOVED THE COMPETITION, AND BEING THE FIRST FEMALE TO COMPETE."



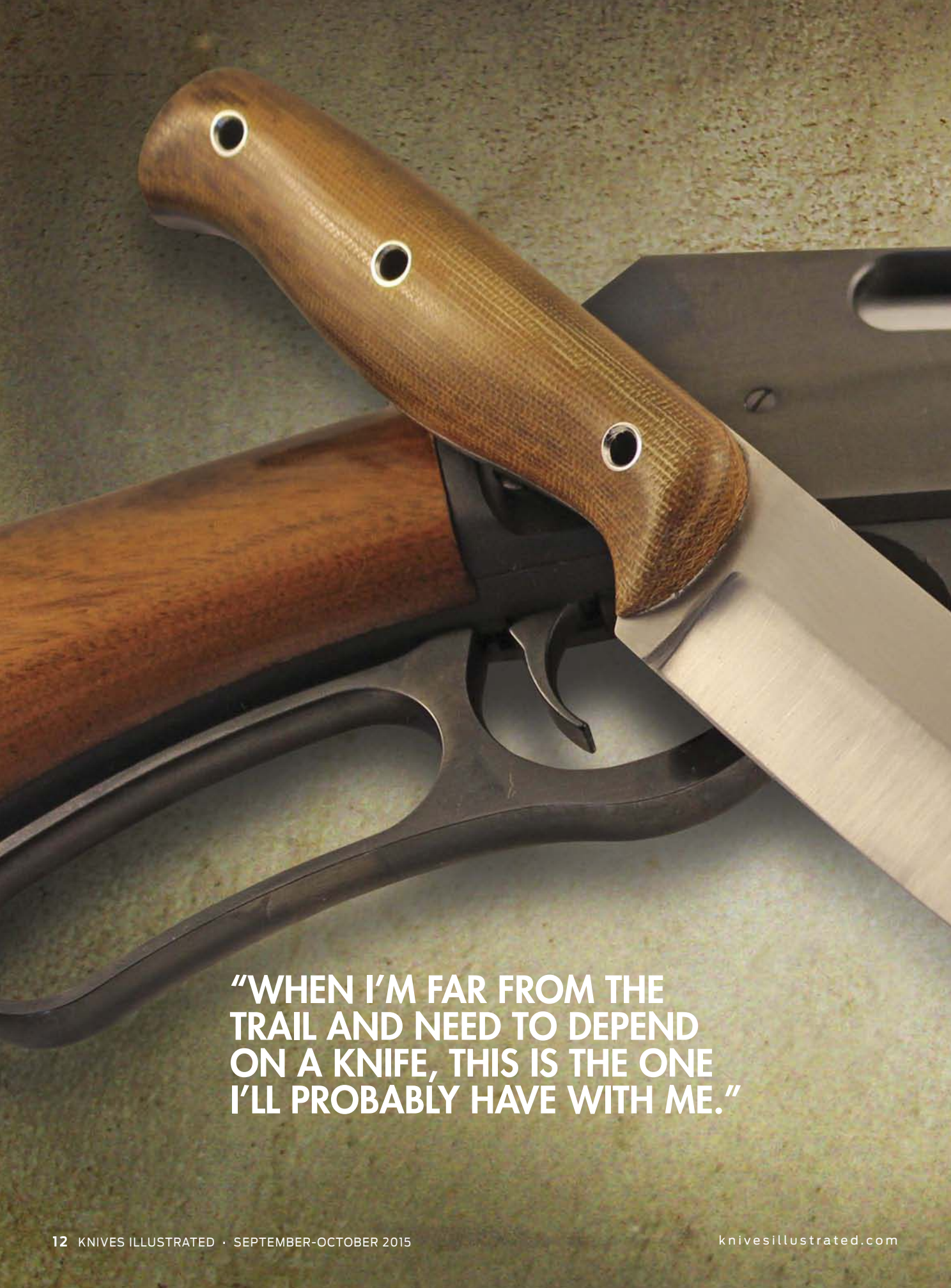
**BLADESPORTS** cutting competition just had its first female compete in the World Championship at the 2015 World Championship. Jessica Elias, sponsored by L.T. Wright Knives, was also the first female to compete in the Nationals and qualify for the championship competition, along with six others.

When asked what she thought about being the first female to compete at the BladeSports World Championship, Jessica said, "I'm looking forward to having a good time, but it's not about me. It's about BladeSports, though it's nice to help empower women and get them

interested in BladeSports as well."

After the competition was over, Jessica said, "I held my own, and I loved the competition, and being the first female to compete. I got a lot of compliments — even one from Gayle Bradley who was a founder of BladeSports, so that's really cool. I went out and not only proved that women could do this, but I could do this! It proved that hard work does pay off."

Our congratulations goes out to Jessica for her efforts, and for helping with the process of getting women interested not only in BladeSports, but the knife world in general. **KI**



**"WHEN I'M FAR FROM THE  
TRAIL AND NEED TO DEPEND  
ON A KNIFE, THIS IS THE ONE  
I'LL PROBABLY HAVE WITH ME."**



# NO DELICATE SONGBIRD

DIVING SPARROW'S  
NORTHERN  
BUSHCRAFT KNIFE  
IS ONE STURDY  
PERFORMER

STORY AND PHOTOS BY  
STEVEN PAUL BARLOW

**SHOULD** we judge a custom knife differently than we do a factory blade? I gave this some thought as I was putting the Northern Bushcraft Survival Tool (NBS) through some back-country trials. The knife is an Abe Elias design and it's sold through his company, Diving Sparrow Knife Works.



The author used the NBS knife to fill a hat with wood shavings to help get a fire started during winter conditions when temperatures were around 20 degrees F.



The NBS comes with a heavy-duty leather sheath that should withstand years of hard use.

When I removed the test knife from its box, I was immediately impressed by the obvious high level of craftsmanship. It's not a fancy knife, one that you'd want to display on your mantle, or set on your desk merely for show.

But sometimes there is a kind of beauty in a tool's quality and its ability to excel at its designed purpose. It can inspire confidence, something you need when you're on your own in the bush, and that can be a beautiful thing too.

### HOW THE NBS MEASURES UP

The NBS is 10.4 inches overall. Its drop-point blade measures 5.25 inches, an excellent length for handling a multitude of tasks you might ask a bushcraft knife to perform. The blade is 1095 carbon steel with a sabre grind.

The knife features an extended tang with serrations, appropriately dubbed the Sparrow's Crown. It can be put to good use processing tinder, making a fire (scraping

a magnesium bar and striking a fire steel), separating fibrous plant material to make cordage, scraping out a burn bowl — any number of tasks you can imagine.

There are three lanyard holes in the handle, a plus if you need to lash the knife to a pole to extend your reach. I do a good share of canoeing and kayaking, and I hate seeing a key piece of gear sink to the bottom of a lake. I always insist on at least one lanyard hole large enough to string the knife on some paracord.

The handle itself is 4.25 inches long. My test knife featured Micarta scales — always fine by me. But, because this is a custom knife, you can choose your handle from a variety of materials to suit your tastes. The grip is one of the features I like best about this knife. The way it balanced in my hand, together with the thickness and contours of the handle, suggested it would provide precise control and would remain comfortable through long sessions of demanding chores.

## BUSHCRAFT SPECIFICATIONS

**PRODUCT:** Northern Bushcraft Survival Tool (NBS)

**DESIGNER:** Abe Elias

**MANUFACTURER:** Diving Sparrow Knife Works

**WEBSITE:** www.DSKW.ca

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 10.4 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 5.25 inches

**BLADE THICKNESS:** 3/16 inch

**BLADE MATERIAL:** 1095 Carbon Steel

**BLADE CONFIGURATION:** Drop-point, sabre grind

**HANDLE LENGTH:** 4.25 inches

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Linen Micarta (tested)

**SHEATH:** Leather

**PRICE:** \$320

## DESIGNED FOR FUNCTION AND UTILITY

The fact that the blade geometry and the dimensions of the grip all contribute to how this knife performs is no surprise. One look at his lineup of cus-

tom knives will tell you that Abe Elias doesn't design a knife merely to have something that looks different.

There's nothing flashy here, nothing that might be used as a prop in the next fantasy or sci-fi film. As one who



The "Sparrow's Crown" refers to the serrated, extended tang on the NBS that can be put to many uses, including to process tinder, strike a fire steel, separate fibrous plant material to make cordage and scrape out a burn bowl.

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The Northern Bushcraft Survival Tool (NBS) is a well-crafted, thoughtfully conceived knife that will meet the demands of those who travel off the beaten paths.



has been immersed in the use of hand tools all his life, he takes the physics of a cutting tool and its ergonomics into account. His designs look simple, but I've learned from my conversations with him that a lot of thought goes into his design philosophy.

### SOME CUTTING REMARKS

I've read articles by Mr. Elias where he has put other knives to the test. But how would one of his knives fare under a little real-world scrutiny? It was time to put the NBS to work.

I never abuse a knife until it breaks and then pronounce judgment. I'm more concerned with its handling qualities, cutting efficiency, and ability to remain comfortable in the hand during long sessions of work. The NBS became my household knife for about a month. I prepared food, opened boxes and packages, cut cardboard for the recycle bin — general chores around the house.

Then I took it for a walk in the woods. The woods, however, were covered in two to three feet of snow, which meant I was on snowshoes. The knife performed well



The NBS knife and a magnesium bar with ferrocerium rod are good additions to your kit when starting a fire could be a matter of survival.

at both fine cutting and long, slicing strokes through wood. It chopped well, too, even though the blade configuration isn't optimized for that task.

The temperature was 20° F and falling and I was getting chilled. I could have just walked out, but decided I'd see how the NBS handled a simulated survival sce-

nario. I used one of my snowshoes to dig a fire pit two feet deep in the snow. Using the NBS, I cut wood poles a foot long and two inches in diameter to line the bottom. I then used the knife to fill my hat with thin wood shavings for tinder, which I transferred to the fire pit.

I shaved some magnesium filings from

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**" ... TAKES THE  
PHYSICS OF A  
CUTTING TOOL AND  
ITS ERGONOMICS  
INTO ACCOUNT."**



While testing Diving Sparrow's NBS knife during simulated winter survival conditions, the author started a fire, made some hot cocoa, and used the knife to process the firewood and spark the ferro rod.



my fire starter onto a cotton ball using the Sparrow's Crown, and also used it to strike a spark to light the fire. I cut a longer stick and stuck it in the snow so that it hung over the fire to suspend my cook pot. I drank hot cocoa as I warmed myself by the fire. I knew then that the NBS would become my new companion for such outings.

### FINAL THOUGHTS







So what about the question I asked at the beginning? Should we judge a custom knife differently? Yes, I think we must. You can't consider the merits of a custom knife on price alone, or merely on the quality of its materials and its workmanship.

How a knife performs is always the key, and with a custom knife that is partially your responsibility. That's because you are



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ordering a knife to meet your specifications. Put a few dozen factory knives to work to determine what aspects are most important to you. When you really know what you want in a knife design, then it's time to think about a custom knife. If that knife doesn't live up to expectations, then maybe you didn't really know what you wanted or needed in the first place.

The Diving Sparrow NBS has many of the attributes that I want in a bushcraft knife. I have a stack of factory blades that I have set aside for now. For me, this custom knife is worth it. When I'm far from the trail and need to depend on a knife, this is the one I'll probably have with me. **KL**

*Steven Paul Barlow is a retired sergeant/station commander and former firearms instructor with the New York State Police. An avid hunter, firearms and knife enthusiast, he has been writing on outdoor topics for more than 30 years.*



The Diving Sparrow's NBS is shown here next to its little brother, the Saker (right), another capable Abe Elias design now being produced by Columbia River Knife & Tool.

## THE "FALCON" KNIFE ANOTHER ELIAS PROJECT

Abe Elias has been getting some recognition as a knife designer recently. Columbia River Knife & Tool (CRKT) is now producing the Saker, a knife Elias designed specifically for them.

The Saker, named after a type of falcon, seems to be an excellent knife, if my early tests with it are any indication. It's smaller than the NBS, but its 4.5-inch blade will be handier when it comes to such tasks as field-dressing game.

Its walnut handle is tastefully done, very ergonomic, and should prove to be durable as well. It rides in a thick, well-constructed leather sheath.

Instead of an extended tang, the Saker comes with a bushcraft accessory tool attached to a lanyard. It can be used to wedge or pry, to collect pitch or strike a ferro rod — and any other number of tasks better left to such a tool rather than your knife blade.

## SPECIFICATIONS

**PRODUCT:** Saker

**DESIGNER:** Abe Elias

**MANUFACTURER:** Columbia River Knife & Tool

**WEBSITE:** [www.CRKT.com](http://www.CRKT.com)

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 9.2 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 4.5 inches

**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.14 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** 1075 Carbon Steel

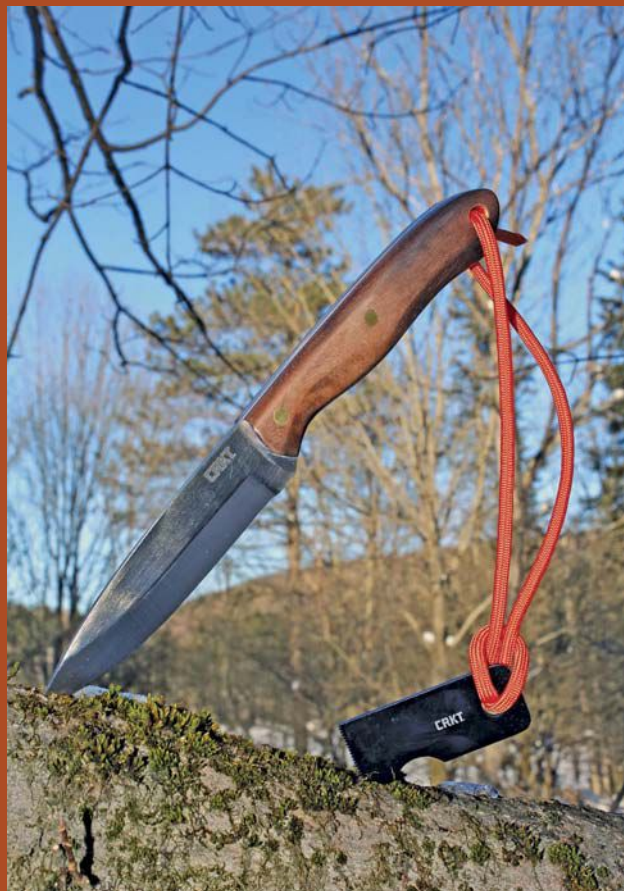
**BLADE CONFIGURATION:** Drop-point, sabre grind

**HANDLE LENGTH:** 4.25 inches

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Walnut

**SHEATH:** Leather

**PRICE:** \$125



The Saker is another Abe Elias design and it's currently being produced by CRKT. It sports walnut handle scales, and comes with a leather sheath and a lanyard with a bushcraft tool.



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# KNIFE MAKER EXTRAORDINAIRE

JIM MINNICK'S COMPLEX WORK IS CENTERED  
ON FIT, FINISH & FUNCTION

STORY BY LES ROBERTSON  
PHOTOS BY JIM COOPER, CHUCK WARD AND ERIC EGGLY OF POINTSEVEN

**JIM MINNICK** is one of the finest folder makers in the world, and his fixed blades aren't bad either.

Back in the late 1980s, when my inventory consisted primarily of fixed blades, one of the very first custom folders I bought was by Jim Minnick. Twenty-seven years ago, his work was clean and crisp, and the only thing that has changed since then is the complexity of his work, which is the epitome of fit, finish, and function. In short, he has been building museum quality knives for the past decade!

## TEAM MINNICK

Jim's wife Joyce is quite the artisan in her own right. She was responsible for engraving many of Jim's knives. In fact, the first knife I ever saw with carved titanium was done by Joyce. Their combined artistry has produced many breathtaking knives. Jim's art folders run the gamut of styles from unique manual openers to automatics.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

EMAIL: [jmjkknives@aol.com](mailto:jmjkknives@aol.com)

WEBSITE: [www.MinnickKnives.com](http://www.MinnickKnives.com)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/JMJKnives](https://www.facebook.com/JMJKnives)



**MODEL: TITAN**

**BLADE LENGTH:** 4 inches

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 9 1/8 inches

**BLADE STEEL:** SKD-11

**BOLSTER MATERIAL:** Carbon steel coated with black oxide

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Stabilized redwood burl

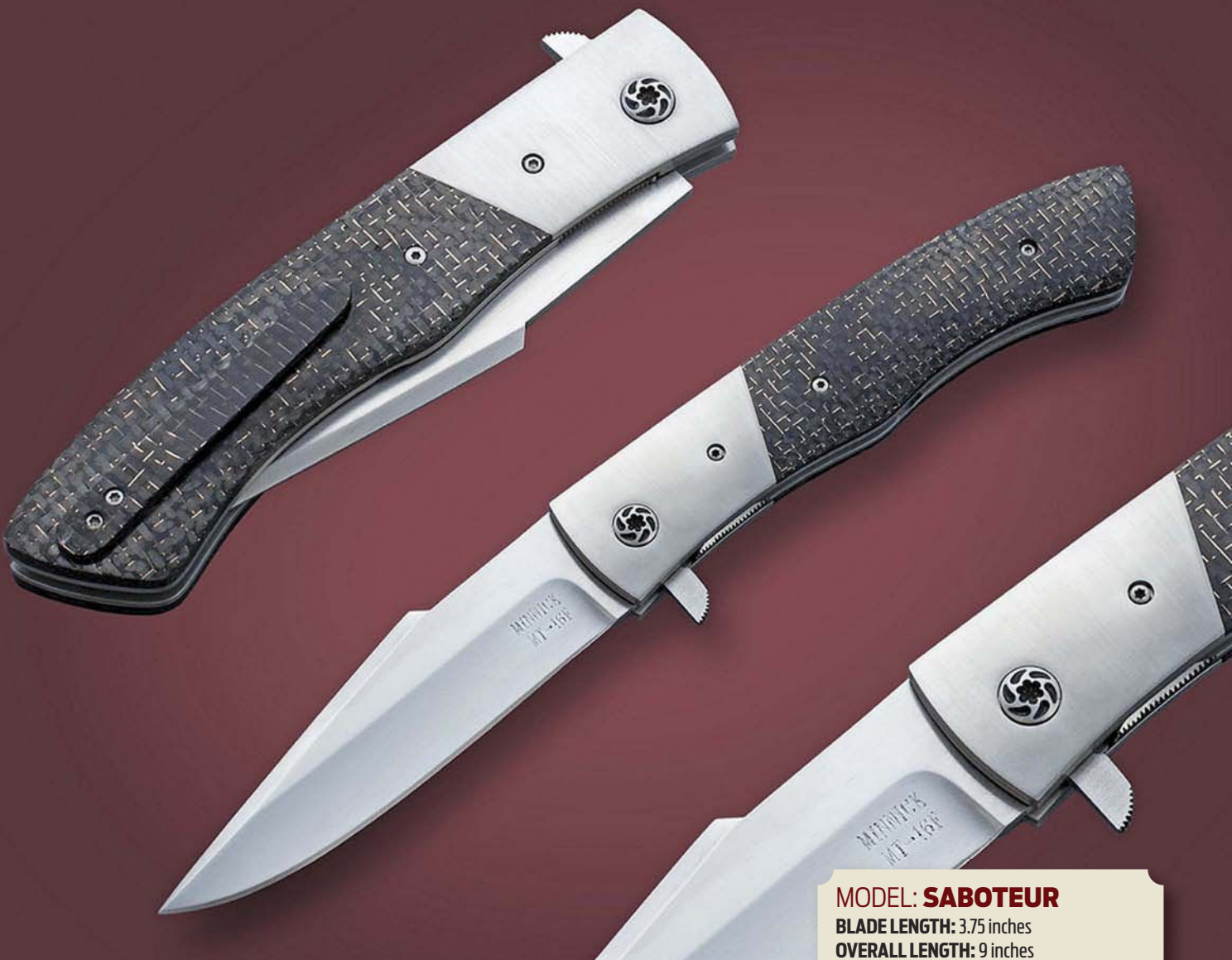
**LINERS:** Anodized blue titanium

**OPENER:** Flipper

**LOCK:** Liner

**CLIP:** Tip up

**PHOTO:** Sharp By Coop



**"I PREFER BLACK LIP PEARL BECAUSE OF ITS BEAUTY AND STABILITY."**

**—JIM MINNICK**

## **MINNICK SCHOOL OF KNIFE MAKING**

Jim offers a four-day course on making knives. The class size is limited to two people since Jim feels this is the maximum number that still allows him to give students the attention they deserve. At the end of the four days, the student(s) will have completed their first folder using their own choice of finishes, handle materials and colors for anodizing the titanium. Each class is filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

## **ART FOLDERS**

His steel preference for his art folders is high carbon damascus steel and stainless steels such as CPM 154. His choices of handle materials seem endless. He works with shell such as mother-of-pearl, black lip, and gold lip. His ivory offerings include mastodon tusk, mastodon teeth, and I have even seen fossil walrus ivory on a couple of fixed blades. Presentation grade woods are on the menu, and Jim offers stone handles and inlays as well. They are stunning and each one is unique.

## **MODEL: SABOTEUR**

**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.75 inches

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 9 inches

**BLADE STEEL:** S35VN

**BLADE FINISH:** Satin

**BOLSTER AND FRAME MATERIAL:** Titanium

**BOLSTER AND FRAME FINISH:** Satin

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Lightning Strike carbon fiber

**OPENER:** Flipper

**LOCK:** Liner

**CLIP:** Tip up - Lightning Strike carbon fiber

**PHOTO:** Chuck Ward

Jim said, in reference to his art folders, "I prefer black lip pearl because of its beauty and stability."

His other preferences are mastodon ivory and white mother-of-pearl combined with piqué work. His piqué work includes inlaid 18K gold pins in ivory or mother-of-pearl. The combination provides a stunning contrast of materials on the knife.



**MODEL: THE BOOK OF ELI**

**BLADE LENGTH:** 4 inches

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 8.75 inches

**BOLSTER MATERIAL:** Carbon steel coated with black oxide

**BLADE STEEL:** Doug Ponzio Turkish Damascus

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Russian dinosaur teeth

**LINERS:** Anodized blue titanium

**LOCK:** Liner

**OPENER:** 18K gold thumb release

**COMMENTS:** Engraving and 24K gold inlay by Joyce Minnick

**PHOTO:** Eric Eggly, PointSeven



## SEE HIS WORK

### SHOWS MINNICK ATTENDS

- 1 Blade Show in Atlanta, Georgia
- 2 The East Coast Custom Knife Show in Jersey City, New Jersey
- 3 The Milan Custom Knife Show in Milan, Italy

**"TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO, HIS WORK WAS CLEAN AND CRISP, AND THE ONLY THING THAT HAS CHANGED SINCE THEN IS THE COMPLEXITY OF HIS WORK ..."**

## TACTICAL FOLDERS

Recently, Jim has started making tactical folders. While, for many makers, there is a steep learning curve when changing styles, Jim had no problems transitioning to the tactical folder arena. His choice for steel is the very popular S35VN. Bolster, frame, and clip material is titanium. However, he will be including zirconium for the bolster and/or clip very soon.

For scales, he utilizes a variety of synthetic handle materials. Jim's favorite is carbon fiber, including Lightning Strike carbon fiber. Additionally, he offers multiple colors of Micarta. His tactical folders

## HOW TO ENROLL

For more information on this class, you can contact Jim at (765) 354-4108.

## MODEL: ART DECO DAGGER

**BLADE LENGTH:** 2.75 inches

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 6 1/8 inch

**BLADE STEEL:** Doug Ponzio Turkish Lace Damascus

**FRAME MATERIAL:** Carbon steel coated with black oxide

**LINERS:** Anodized blue titanium

**LOCK:** Liner

**OPENER:** Thumb opener

– three 14K gold balls

**COMMENTS:** Engraving and 24K gold inlay, 24K gold balls in back strap and 14K gold thumb stud and bail by Joyce Minnick

**PHOTO:** Sharp By Coop

feature a flipper opener that is as smooth as silk. His lock of choice for his folders is a standard liner lock.

## PRICING AND DELIVERY TIMES

Jim is that rare folder maker whose knives start at \$650 and go up to \$12,000. That \$12,000 is not some artificially-skewed aftermarket price; that is the table price. No matter what price you

**MODEL: CROWN DAGGER**

**BLADE LENGTH:** 4 inches

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 8.75 inches

**FRAME MATERIAL:** 416 stainless steel

**BLADE STEEL:** Rados Turkish Damascus

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Lapis Lazuli

**LINERS:** Blued titanium

**OPENER:** Leaf-spring auto

**COMMENTS:** Deep relief carving, 24K gold inlay, fine silver and copper inlays (throw downs) by Joyce Minnick, 10 pt. white diamond set in gold


**PHOTO:** Sharp By Coop



pay, you are getting a high-quality knife that is a true value for the completed product. Delivery time is between one and two years, depending on the type of knife and its complexity.

**FINAL THOUGHTS**

Jim Minnick has acquired a strong skill set over almost four decades that cements his standing as a master craftsman. His knives appeal both to the eye and to the hand, making them a pleasure

to own. The art folder world has known about Jim for 25 years, however, Jim may be the best-kept secret in the tactical folder world. But, that won't last very long. I highly recommend you consider one of Jim Minnick's knives for your next custom knife purchase. 

*Les Robertson has been a custom knife purveyor since 1985, and has conducted seminars for both collectors and makers for the past 25 years on topics regarding custom knives. He is the author of the "Custom Knife Buying Guide" and is a regular contributor to Knives Illustrated.*

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# BEYOND AGENCIES

PHOTOS BY TERRILL HOFFMAN

**IT** used to be that the word “tactical” only conjured images of military or law enforcement personnel carrying out specific tasks or performing various duties.



A close-up photograph of two combat-style knives resting on a grey tactical vest. The vest features multiple straps with buckles and Velcro patches. The knives have black, textured handles with a circular logo near the base of the blade. The blades are silver-colored and have a drop-point design. The knife on the left is positioned diagonally, while the one on the right is more vertical.

However, in today's world, deliberating over tactical considerations and choosing appropriate gear to meet specific needs, seems to often fall under the purview of the citizenry, as well as organized agencies or military services. Just look at the rise of concealed carry permits, people getting involved with preparedness, and the rising trend of people actively taking steps to defend themselves and their families.

The following section on tactical knives will help inform the average person about the different styles and options available when considering a knife for defensive or combat use. We hope you enjoy the experience. (KI)

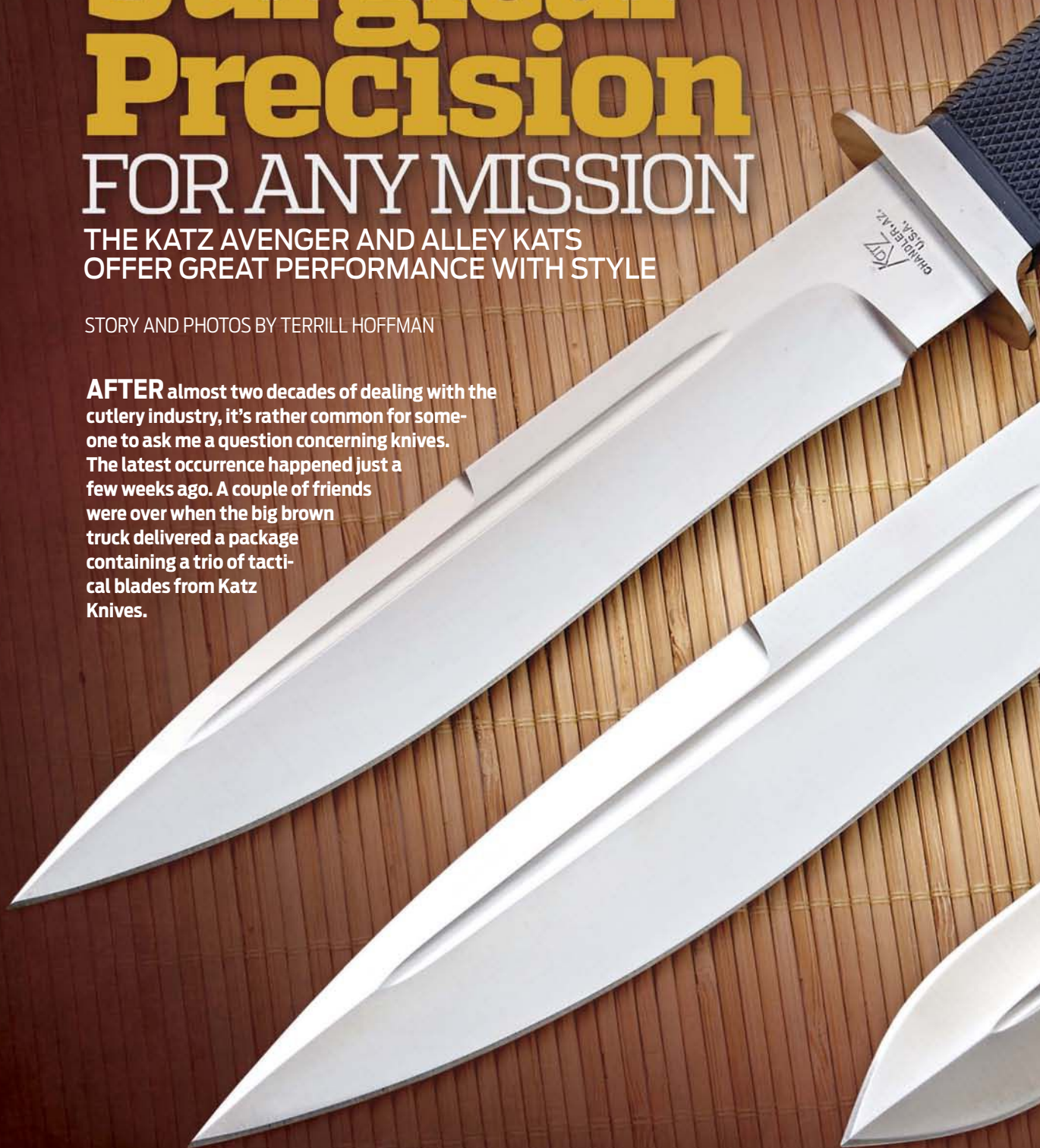
# Surgical Precision

## FOR ANY MISSION

THE KATZ AVENGER AND ALLEY KATS OFFER GREAT PERFORMANCE WITH STYLE

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TERRILL HOFFMAN

**AFTER** almost two decades of dealing with the cutlery industry, it's rather common for someone to ask me a question concerning knives. The latest occurrence happened just a few weeks ago. A couple of friends were over when the big brown truck delivered a package containing a trio of tactical blades from Katz Knives.





The hardest part about picking up a Katz tactical knife is deciding which model fits your needs. The Avenger has served me well, but it may be time for it to get a big brother.

**"BY DEFINITION,  
THE TACTICAL  
KNIFE IS MADE  
FOR MOMENTS  
WHEN LIFE AND  
DEATH CAN  
HANG IN THE  
BALANCE."**



Everything doesn't have to be "black" to be tactical. The 8008 Alley Kat is all tactical, but with style.



The Alley Kat Series comes in two sizes. The 6006 has a 6 1/2-inch blade that is more than enough steel for anyone, but there is just something appealing about the 8-inch blade of the 8008.

## CONTACT KATZ KNIVES

PO Box 26150, West Kelowna  
BC, Canada V4T 2G3  
(800) 848-7084  
[www.KatzKnives.com](http://www.KatzKnives.com)

Trying to be a good host, I passed around the contents for all to see as I explained to them that the next issue of Knives Illustrated was going to highlight the category of tactical knives. It was then that one of them asked that "golden" question; "What makes a knife tactical and sets it apart from others?"

Hearing my opportunity to impress, I took the petite Avenger boot knife in one hand and a large Alley Kat fighter in the other as I puffed up my

chest to begin my classroom lecture. I started discussing blade patterns and sizes when I came to a sudden stop as I was hit with a profound epiphany.

The greatest attribute required in a tactical knife is "faith." Of course, an inanimate object such as a knife can't have faith, but it can instill the owner with faith. Of all types and variations of knives, the tactical knife is the one that absolutely must perform at the critical time. By definition, the tactical



The double guard on these knives is there to protect the user's hands, but it also creates an appealing transition between the blade and handle. The fit of these three parts of the knife is a testament to the quality of Katz Knives.

knife is made for moments when life and death can hang in the balance.

### One On One

To understand what brought about this realization, all I have to do is show you the sample Avenger boot knife along with its twin that's been sitting with my assortment of bug-out gear for the past 15 plus years.

While in Phoenix, Arizona for my daughter's high school graduation I found

myself with an afternoon to kill, and, while looking through a magazine, I saw an ad stating that Katz Knives was located in Chandler, Arizona.

Being just a few miles away, I decided I needed to escape the ladies of the family who were preparing for graduation, and that Katz Knives needed a visitor. At the time, I had just started photographing knives, and had yet to write my first article. When I met Keith Derkatz, founder and President of Katz Knives, I was noth-

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Chopping is normally not a job for a tactical blade, but you never know when that Poplar may be sneaking up on you. When your knife has an 8-inch blade, it can do jobs well beyond its design criteria.

## **"THE SAMPLE KNIVES ARE A TRUE REPRESENTATION OF THE LEVEL OF QUALITY YOU CAN EXPECT FROM KATZ KNIVES."**

ing more than a customer with an avid interest in knives.

It was then that I discovered that Keith designs all of the Katz knives, but actual production takes place in Japan to his specifications. He spent about two hours showing me his various models and discussing the details of each design. I assure you that the time he spent with me basically ate up any profit he made when I purchased the Avenger that day. Since then, Keith has relocated both his family

and business back to his native British Columbia, but I do hope that he understands how much I appreciated his time that day.

### **The Avenger Series**

Although the Avenger was not to be the main focus of my review, it is only proper I start with this knife due to my history with it. As mentioned, the best description of this knife pattern would be to refer it as a boot knife. This is a style that can be easi-

ly concealed in an accessible location such as in the top of a boot or inside the waistband.

The Avenger has a total length of 8.75 inches, with 4 1/2 inches of that being the double-edged spear point blade. Fashioned from 3/16-inch thick XT70 stainless steel, the blade has a width of 1 1/16 inches. Both edges are slightly hollow-ground, and there is a 3-inch fuller on both sides positioned down the centerline of the blade. A stainless steel double guard is



the transition point from the blade to a molded Kraton handle.

Although I do not plan on tearing up a knife to see for myself, Keith assured me that the full thickness tang of the fixed blade knives are about 1/2-inch wide and extends the length of the handle to a point just short of the lanyard hole. The Kraton synthetic handle has a “stippled” or “checkered” finish molded into the palm swell.

The Avenger is actually a series of three knives with changes in either the blade or materials. The version described above has a retail price of \$222.50, but there's also a model with one side of the double-edged blade serrated. A more ornate ver-

## AVENGER SPECS

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 8.75 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 4.5 inches  
**BLADE WIDTH:** 1 1/16 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 3/16 inch  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** XT70  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Kraton  
**SHEATH:** Cordura  
**MSRP:** \$222.50

## ALLEY KAT 6006 SPECS

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 10.75 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 6.5 inches  
**BLADE WIDTH:** 1 inch  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 3/16 inch  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** XT70  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Kraton  
**SHEATH:** Cordura (Optional quick-release)  
**MSRP:** \$290

## ALLEY KAT 8008 SPECS

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 13 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 8 inches  
**BLADE WIDTH:** 1.25 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 3/16 inch  
**BLADE MATERIAL:** XT70  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Kraton  
**SHEATH:** Cordura (Optional leather)  
**MSRP:** \$330



I tested the Alley Kat against wallboard and that was a non-event. Then I tried 1/4-inch thick leather only to get the same result. Combining both was even boring. These knives will penetrate.

sion is available with damascus steel and a Coraline marble handle.

## Alley Kat Series

The other two knives in the package were the model 6006 and the model 8008. Both of these knives are members of the Alley Kat Series, and differ only in size and price. The 6006 retails for \$290, while the larger 8008 has a retail price of \$330.

The 6006 has a handle and guard identical to the Avenger, but the single edged blade is 6 1/2 inches long giving the knife a total length of 10.75 inches. As with the Avenger, the blade has a 1-inch width and is 3/16 inches thick. The single edge has a hollow-ground profile and a slight re-curve to the blade pattern. The flat spine of the blade extends for 3 inches from the handle before it tapers into a false edge for the last 3 1/2 inches of the blade. There is also a fuller on both sides of the Alley Kat's blade running at the top of the grind.

Describing the model 8008 is rather easy; just take the 6006 and give it steroids. The blade, guard, and handle of the 8008 are all enlarged in contrast to the 6006. The blade is about 1 1/4 inches wide and 8 inches long, providing the knife with an overall length of 13 inches. The third knife in the Alley Kat series is a model 8008 in damascus steel with a Coraline marble handle.

There are a few items common to all three of these knives that deserve mention. The blades are manufactured using XT70 stainless steel with a Rockwell hardness of 56. This steel is listed as proprietary to Katz Knives, but its properties are similar to AUS6A and 440C, which should give it a good durability factor and edge retention.

The blades sport a fuller on both sides which has a certain aesthetic appeal, but this feature lightens the weight of the blade while adding an amount of rigidity. A fuller is not a “blood groove” as some urban legends like to claim. The sample knives are a true representation of the level of quality you can expect from Katz Knives. There is not a single grinding flaw and all grind lines match perfectly.

The guards blend well to both the blade and the handle, with only the slightest line showing where the tang passes



There is a size difference between the handle on the larger Alley Kat and the two other knives, but they all share the same pattern. The Kraton synthetic handle enhances the grip as does the palm swell.

through the guard. The Avenger has a negative balance centering right at the guard, while the longer blades of the two Alley Kats result in a slight, blade-heavy balance. Lastly, each knife had a well-executed satin finish and was sent for review with a Cordura sheath, but you can order a leather version from the factory.

### Time For A Test

The only real way to create that “faith” in a knife is put it to use and to use it often. Unfortunately, or should I say fortunately, we are somewhat limited in our methods of testing tactical knives. While I often refer to my property as the “Proving Ground,” I have to sadly report that there isn’t a single enemy guard patrolling nearby. Nor do I plan to hold any amphibious landing of SEAL units down by the pond.

However, all you can expect from any tactical knife is to cut, stab, and slice, and those are attributes I can test. Since I had “tested” the Avenger for over a decade, and couldn’t be happier with the results, most of the work was done by the two Alley Kats.

Unlike some, I have no desire to stab concrete blocks, or even 50-gallon steel drums, but I did subject these knives to penetration tests on various materials. The blade profile of the Alley Kat lent itself well to this task, and even the hardest of leather wasn’t a worthy match. The same result occurred when I changed the targets to wood paneling and drywall. The depth of penetration was controlled by the amount of force I used in my stabbing motion, and I was amazed at the lack of force needed.

To change things up a bit, I decided to perform my cutting and slicing tests using ropes, wood, meat, and cardboard. The



All three knives were supplied with a suitable Cordura sheath. The retaining strap will rotate for left- or right-handed use, and leather sheaths are available from the factory.

rope wasn’t a challenge until I reached the 2-inch diameter hemp. The knives did well, but at that point I had to make multiple cuts to totally separate the rope. Cutting smaller ropes and cords was like cutting carrots.

It was almost sickening to see how meat held up to these knives. I had a rather large hindquarter from a deer harvested two years ago that my wife thought should be disposed of. Once it defrosted, the Alley Kats sliced through the meat like butter. These knives could afflict gruesome wounds if needed. The comical part of my test came while cutting cardboard. This thin paper product is actually a rather hard test for a knife.

Cardboard will dull even the finest of edges more quickly than you can imagine.

After cutting through several pieces, it became apparent that the edge was beginning to drag, but this condition was easily corrected with a little work on a set of crock sticks. Both models of the Alley Kat performed well on wood, but it was the larger model that proved to be a viable chopper.

I cut a dozen 1 1/2-inch diameter saplings to use as stakes for my beaver traps without any apparent wear on the edge. The only thing to report is that there

**N**ot all tactical knives are fixed blades. Katz has a good selection of folders for those times when carrying a larger knife isn’t practical. In the photo are a couple of their offerings including the Phantom Tactical folder with blonde ashwood grip slabs, and the Kagemusha folder with textured Kraton slabs. The Phantom has a 3.5-inch blade and weighs 4 ounces, while the Kagemusha sports a 3-inch blade and weighs only 2.3 ounces.



The Katz Kagemusha and Phantom Tactical are lightweight alternatives for carry, and offer different blade profiles to meet your needs.





You can forget about tensile strength and load-bearing ratings. Good, old fashioned 2-inch hemp rope will put any blade to the test. The Alley Kat proved to be the right tool to make two pieces out of one.

wasn't much I could complain about. The knives held their own with little fanfare. It did take some adjustment to work around the double guard on these knives, since I am used to knives with either no guard, or a single lower guard. However, during the penetration test, I was thankful the double guard was there.


### Patterned For Tactical Use

Are these the greatest knives on the market? I have no clue since I have not tested every knife available, but they are well made and highly useful. They are also patterned for tactical use, and while this may transition to certain survival scenarios, they are not designed as the ultimate utility blade. We can forget the "PC" aspect of society and refer to these blades as they should be; they are weapons.

I will testify to the faith I have in the Avenger, and I must admit that it would not take much to build a bond with either size of the Alley Kat. Katz Knives has a wide selection of hunting, field, and utility knives that carry the same level of quality, but for pure defense, I could be happy with a Kat. 



# The Inkosi



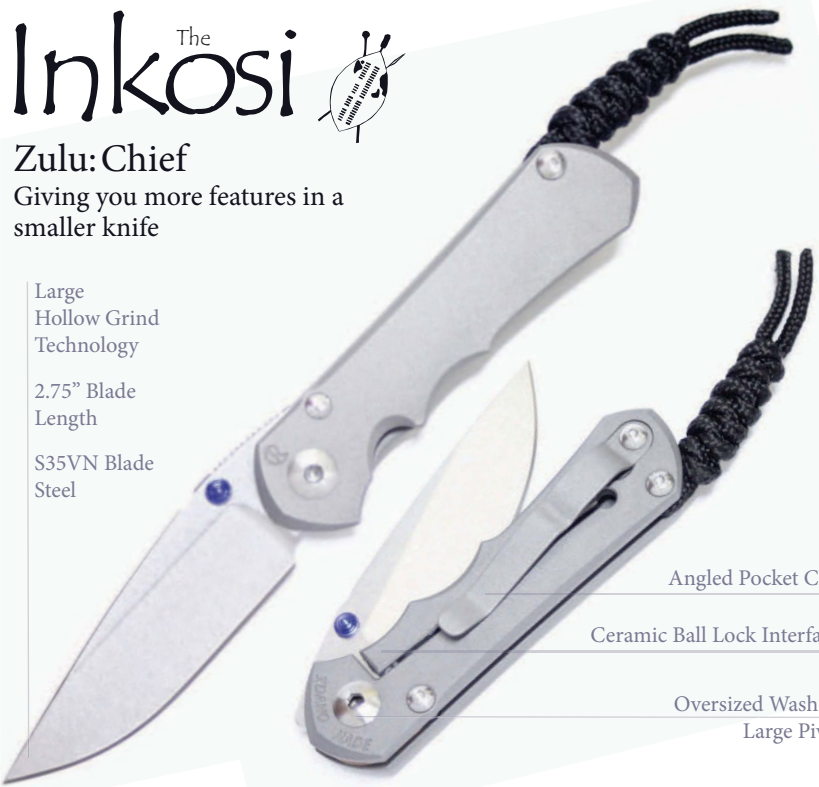
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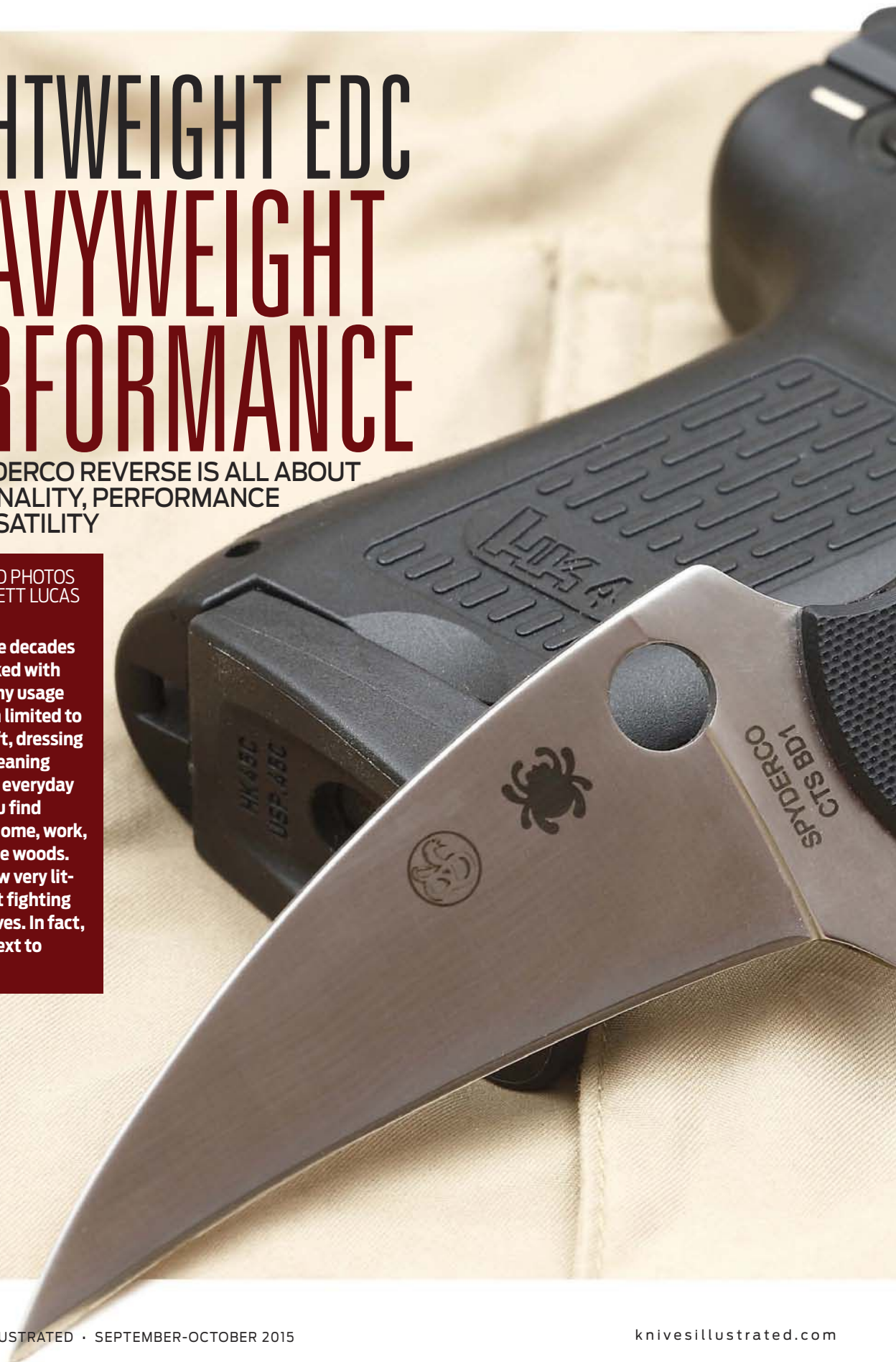
*chrisreeve.com*

# LIGHTWEIGHT EDC HEAVYWEIGHT PERFORMANCE

THE SPYDERCO REVERSE IS ALL ABOUT  
FUNCTIONALITY, PERFORMANCE  
AND VERSATILITY

TEXT AND PHOTOS  
BY GARRETT LUCAS

**FOR** the decades I've worked with knives, my usage has been limited to bushcraft, dressing game, cleaning fish, and everyday tasks you find around home, work, and in the woods. So, I know very little about fighting with knives. In fact, I know next to nothing.





## SPECIFICATIONS:

**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.47 inches (88 mm)

**CUTTING EDGE:** 3.10 inches (79 mm)

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 7.74 inches (197 mm)

**BLADE THICKNESS:** 0.14 inches (3.4 mm)

**GRIND:** Full-Flat

**BLADE STEEL:** CTS-BD1

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Black G10

**WEIGHT:** 3.6 ounces—(knife Only)

**SHEATH MATERIAL:** Boltaron



The Reverse in an IWB carry, standard, edge-out profile, set for a reverse-grip draw.



This picture shows the knife set up in both edge-in and edge-out configurations for comparison.

I never looked at knives as a serious defensive weapon, mainly because I don't have the necessary training, and, to quote Clint Eastwood, "...a man's got to know his limitations."

Even so, I've always carried a robust folder with me as a last-ditch weapon should the case ever arrive, because I do believe in layering my defensive options just like you might layer clothes during

winter. Surprisingly, my thinking about what I carried on a daily basis "reversed" a bit last summer.

### KENTUCKY BENEFITS

Moving to the state of Kentucky had a little bonus that I wasn't aware of until after I arrived. Most states' concealed carry permits allow the carry of pistols and revolvers only. Kentucky's Concealed Deadly

Weapon License is different. You can carry basically anything (with a CDWL) as long as it's legal to own.

So, the move opened up a lot of interesting options for me, and I finally began thinking about carrying a slim, fixed-blade knife to use as a backup weapon. I looked at different models for the past six months, but I never actually knew what I was looking for in a defensive knife.



The sheath for the Reverse is made of Boltaron (similar to Kydex) for a snug fit whichever way the blade is facing.



The back of the sheath reveals the G-Clip, which is reversible for left- or right-side carry, and there are additional holes for attaching the clip at a 45-degree angle, as well.

## "I TRIED EACH STYLE AND KNIFE CONFIGURATION WHILE STABBING, SLASHING, AND RIPPING THE BEEF TO PIECES."

Thankfully, I recently received one for review, and that gave me a real chance to evaluate the ease of carry as an EDC item, and to get a better understanding and feel for how it could be used practically in a defensive scenario. That knife is the Spyderco Reverse.

### THE DETAILS

The Reverse's name is a bit of double-play on both knife-fighting styles and on the configurability of the knife itself. There are styles that focus on using a reverse grip rather than a standard grip, and the name also stems from the knife's ability to be configured for both an edge-in and edge-out profile by simply removing the grip slabs and reversing the orientation of the blade. A T-8 Torx wrench is included to assist with removing the scales and flipping the blade.

The materials used for the construction of the Spyderco Reverse are G10 for the grip scales, and CTS-BD1 steel for the knife itself. I found during my research that CTS-BD1 is more of an entry-level

steel, with the consensus opinion putting it in the same realm as AUS-8, 154CM and 8CR13 with regard to performance. Weighing in at just 5.5 ounces with the sheath, it's a dream to carry and will soon be forgotten once it's in place.

### THE PHONE CALL

I already admitted to my lack of knowledge earlier, so I figured a phone call was in order. I contacted Michael Janich, one of the designers of the Reverse, to ask a few questions about the Reverse and

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## REFLECTIONS ON THE REVERSE

- Extremely lightweight, comfortable to carry
- Versatile design for multiple grips and configurations
- Strong value for the street price
- Snug-fitting sheath easily converted for IWB or OWB carry
- Slim profile for easy concealment



The Reverse is easily disassembled with the provided Torx wrench to flip the blade in the tang slot to achieve the desired blade profile.

about defensive applications with knives. Janich is a technical writer in the knife industry, and he has studied knife fighting and other martial arts for more than 30 years. He also teaches self-defense and martial arts seminars through his business, Martial Blade Concepts.

Janich stated that the starting point for designing the Reverse was the Spyderco P'Kal folding knife. The P'Kal is designed with the edge turned inward, a style that Craig Douglas (co-designer of the Reverse) prefers. However, Janich prefers a fighting knife to have the edge turned outward. He said that while both he and Douglas were teaching a seminar together, students brought up how surprised they were that he and Douglas were such good friends when they had such distinct differences in their approaches to knife fighting. That conversation, along with

their friendship, was the spark that led to their design partnership for the Spyderco Reverse.

By designing a fixed blade knife that would allow one to easily remove the scales, flip the blade over, and reattach the scales, you essentially have two different martial style knives in one product. With the blade edge facing in (away from the finger grooves), the knife is styled primarily for quick thrusts, and then, secondarily, for ripping back through the flesh from the penetration point. Conversely, the blade-out configuration allows for more use of the edge with slashing attacks, rather than focusing on thrusts—at least for reverse-grip techniques.

#### THE REVERSE'S ADVANTAGE

There's no judgement from me on fighting styles. After doing hours of re-

search and watching how the different styles are employed, several appear to be extremely effective, particularly when applied with complementary martial arts movements to obtain maximum effect. What I will say is that by incorporating two designs into one knife by simply flipping the blade within the scales, Spyderco has an offering in the Reverse that's a great value — especially for beginners.

If someone is interested in learning even a little about knife fighting, the Reverse allows the utilization of both a regular grip and a reverse grip, while at the same time offering a blade-in or blade-out configuration. That opens up a lot of options for an individual to find a particular style that works for them without having to buy different knives.

The sheath for the Reverse is constructed of Boltaron (similar to Kydex),

**"IT WAS EASY TO 'PUNCH' OUT WITH THE KNIFE TO GET PENETRATION, AND THEN ... THE RIPPING EFFECT FOR WHICH THAT PROFILE IS DESIGNED."**



With a reverse-grip draw, the edge is facing forward, so extra caution and practice is required to avoid hitting the torso during the draw.

and uses Spyderco's G-Clip for attachment to a belt, cord, or other gear. The G-Clip is reversible for either the user's left- or right-hand side, and it can also be fastened to the

sheath at an angle to provide a cant for an easier draw.

As we were doing some pictures of the model drawing the knife, we had the sheath set up for a reverse-grip draw. However, that meant the edge would be facing forward rather than backward (like most knives), and could lead to cuts to the torso while drawing and bringing the knife forward — especially if the user has little practice under their belt, or a spare tire over their belt. I mentioned this to Janich during the call, and he agreed. He pointed out that it's especially risky if the user is wearing the sheath anywhere behind the 9:00 and 3:00 position, and the knife has to be brought around the waist during the draw.

Janich mentioned a trick

## CONTACT

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**ADDRESS:**

820 Spyderco Way  
Golden, Colorado 80403

that he liked to use when drawing the Reverse with the edge facing forward to cope with that particular issue. He wraps a piece of paracord around his belt, and that is what is cap-

tured by the Spyderco G-Clip, instead of the belt. That way, when the user draws the knife, the sheath will come out of the waistband a bit as well, avoiding any cuts to the torso. Then, as the paracord tightens to hold the sheath, the knife pulls free and away from the body.

## TEST TIME

After the phone call was done, I had to test the Reverse, but my options were limited. It's not like I can put a fighting knife to use in a real-world scenario. So, I bought \$90 worth of inside round (beef) and nailed it to a standing board for testing purposes. I knew it wouldn't be an exact representation of how the knife would perform in a real self-defense situation, especially since there wasn't any bone.

However, it was the best I could come up with, and I felt it would at least give me an idea of the cutting power of different strikes and the comfort level of the different gripping styles.

Honestly, it wasn't too long before I began to get an instinctual feel for what style I liked — at least without the benefit of any training. As Janich pointed out in our conversation, for reverse-grip fighting, you have to commit to getting closer to your opponent and working inside their personal space. A standard grip allows for more distance from the opponent. I tried each style and knife configuration while stabbing, slashing, and ripping the beef to pieces. I found that with an ice pick type of grip, I liked the edge in profile of the Reverse — Douglas' profile preference.

It was easy to "punch" out with

A close-up of a reverse grip on the standard (blade out) profile.

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**DEALERS ONLY!**



Here, the Reverse is set up in the standard, edge-out configuration preferred by designer Michael Janich.



Holding the grip normally, fingers in the grooves, demonstrates the unusual edge orientation of an edge-in profile.



With the blade edge facing opposite the finger grooves, this is the edge-in configuration preferred by designer Craig Douglas. It's meant primarily for quick thrusts and rearward ripping motions.



The handle of the Reverse is a simple, yet functional component that is slim enough for easy, in-the-waistband carry.



The grip slabs of the Reverse are held in place with Torx screws that can be removed to flip the blade over to change the profile of the knife.



The thickness of the blade is only a hair over 1/8-inch thick, making the Reverse very light, and a phenomenal slicer.

the knife to get penetration and then turn my body back to pull the knife in my general direction to get the ripping effect for which that profile is designed. In some ways, it was like boxing, at least in how I set up my shoulders and feet. It had a very natural feel to it, and I was surprised at how deeply the knife cut and how much raw energy could be directed with such a compact blade. The Reverse really started to impress me.

Using the knife in a reverse grip with the edge out (standard profile), I was able to get some decent slashes, but nowhere near the depth and damage of the other style. The cuts were shallower, and I didn't have the benefit of the initial penetration wound that I achieved with the boxing-style thrusts.

Of course, my not having any training at all would be a large factor in not fully realizing results as satisfactory as the first method. That's on me, not the particular style.

Using a tip I received from Janich, I also tried a standard grip with the edge-out profile while keeping my thumb on the spine. With just a bit of practice, I felt like I had more precise



Deeply-penetrating thrusts with the edge-in profile results in extensive damage during the reverse ripping draw of the blade.

control of my strikes, if not the raw power of the edge-in rips.

With the proper training, the Spyderco Reverse can be easily configured to employ whatever style you prefer. In fact, the Reverse can help you find the style that works best for you by being versatile enough to change profiles for whatever method you are practicing. As a beginner, that's a great benefit to someone like me, trying

to find my way through the various styles without busting the bank.

### PERFORMANCE, VERSATILITY

At my age, I don't see myself becoming any kind of grand master at knife fighting in the near or distant future. I had a similar realization about 9-Ball during my twenties. But, I do see the benefit of getting real training and learning

some basic techniques that may save me or someone else down the road. It won't be my primary defensive tool, and I won't be doing symmetric checks and cuts. I want it in reserve, and I want it to be a surprise.

Even with knife fighting being outside of my wheelhouse, I know enough to appreciate the value of the Spyderco Reverse — especially considering its versatility as a learning tool, and as a slim and compact EDC piece that can be carried everywhere without effort. Advanced practitioners may have their own preferences, and that's okay.

The Reverse offers functionality, performance, and versatility, making it a great value for the money. With an MSRP of \$149.95, you can find it online for about \$95. For someone like me, that's just now learning the craft, exploring techniques, and wanting a more substantial backup blade, the Spyderco Reverse makes the cut perfectly. **(K)**



After giving the Reverse a decent workout, it took a few blasts from the water hose to knock off all of the accumulated gunk.

**"THE THICKNESS OF THE BLADE IS ONLY A HAIR OVER 1/8TH OF AN INCH THICK, MAKING THE REVERSE VERY LIGHT, AND A PHENOMENAL SLICER."**

*Garrett Lucas is long-time outdoors enthusiast who writes about knives, survival and firearms.*

# TACTICAL BUSHCRAFT

THE ESEE-CM6 IS A PRACTICAL DO-ALL BLADE  
FOR BUGOUT OR BATTLEFIELD

BY TIM STETZER

**IF** you're reading the pages of *Knives Illustrated*, chances are you aren't just a "one knife" kind of person.

With that said, the reality is that we can't always carry a myriad of blades with us. Sometimes we need to make a choice as to which knife fits our needs for a do-it-all blade, especially when weight and space considerations are a concern.

When writer, photographer, and outdoorsman Terrill Hoffman had to make that decision, he didn't find a blade on the market that exactly suited him, so he sat down and designed one with ESEE Knives. That's when the ESEE-CM6 was born.





**" ... ITS SIMPLE,  
SLEEK DESIGN  
KEEPS DOWN  
WEIGHT AND  
BULK."**



## TALK WITH THE DESIGNER

I had a chance to sit down and talk with Terrill about this project, and get some insight into the design.

While he's had more than his share of blades pass through his hands over the years, there wasn't one that jumped out to him as the right one for what he wanted. Basically, what he was looking for was a "go-to blade" that could be used for a bug-out bag, or any other situation where you aren't likely to have a variety of tools at your disposal.

Since this was a blade designed for emergency situations, he wanted something that was at home in the woods, but could serve in a more urban setting, and also work as a defensive tool when needed. Terrill calls it a "civilian tactical" blade, which encompasses its combined role, and he categorizes it as "75-percent outdoor tool and 25-percent tactical weapon."

What Terrill envisioned was a mid-sized blade capable of hard work, but easily carried, so he focused on something in the

5 to 6-inch blade range. He wanted the design to be simple and rugged without a lot of unnecessary frills. Basically, he wanted a full-tang blade and a pair of handle scales — no guard, no bolsters, no separate pommel. Nothing to break, catch, or get in the way. He opted for a smooth spine with no thumb grooves or jimping, so nothing would get into the way if he needed to apply pressure to the top of the blade for cuts. (It also gives the user a clear surface for batoning, if that's your preference.)



The CM6 has enough length and mass to chop down limbs and poles suitable for emergency shelter building and fires.



The CM6 uses a modified drop-point design with a sharpened top swedge to enhance penetration.

## CM6 Specifications

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 11.1 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 5.9 inches

**WIDTH:** 1.3 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** 1095 Carbon Steel at 55-57HRC

**THICKNESS:** 3/16 inch

**FINISH:** Black textured powder coating

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Canvas Micarta

**WEIGHT WITHOUT SHEATH:** 10 ounces

**SHEATH MATERIAL:** Black Kydex

**MSRP:** \$240.46



The CM6 uses a set of removable Micarta handle scales that are quite comfortable and well-profiled.



The 5.25-inch handle is big enough for use with gloves or by folks with large hands.



A sliding screw lets you adjust the tension on your ESEE so the retention of the knife is just right for your purposes.

## MEET THE CM6

The name CM6 gives you some hints about this ESEE knife right off the bat. CM stands for Chestnut Mountain, which is a nod to the Chestnut Mountain Proving Grounds in North Carolina where Terrill does much of his firearms and outdoors testing, and where he has hosted the annual outdoor survival outing, Practice What You Preach, for the past 14 years. It's a great piece of property where I've had the pleasure to visit over the years, and it's a great spot to hike, hunt, fish, camp, or test your outdoors skills.

The number 6 in the name indicates the blade length that Terrill settled on — it's actually a touch less than 6 inches at 5.9 inches of 1095 carbon steel. But close enough to six for naming purposes! Terrill chose 1095 at a Rockwell hardness of 55-57 for the combination of good edge retention with ease of sharpening in the field. The blade is coated with ESEE's rugged black powder coat for rust resistance.

## PRACTICALLY TACTICAL

The CM6 designer Terrill Hoffman describes his knife as "75-percent outdoor tool and 25-percent tactical weapon" and that's a pretty apt description. Its rugged full-tang construction and simple, but solid materials make it well-suited for outdoor survival. However, its sharpened swedge, matte low-profile finish, and overall size also make it a good choice for military or law enforcement field operations. Its lightweight and adaptable sheath make it a capable tool that should be easy to bring along wherever your hiking or combat boots take you.

The CM6 uses a high saber grind with a plain edge secondary bevel, and it came hair-popping sharp out of the box. There's a swedge on the back of the drop point that's sharpened for the first inch to enhance penetration.

The handle is a simple pair of well-contoured, removable canvas Micarta scales. At 5.25 inch-

es, they're comfortable for my medium-sized hands and allow enough room for work with a glove, or for folks with large hands. Scale-to-tang fit is excellent and the handle slabs are nicely rounded so as to avoid sharp angles and eliminate hot spots. The handle is designed for comfort in a variety of gripping



The excellent 1095 edge proved quite suitable for assorted carving and notching tasks useful in bushcraft and outdoor survival.



The CM6 is described as 75-percent outdoor and 25-percent tactical weapon by its designer. It certainly works as well paired up with a modern combat rifle as it does a backpack and a set of hiking boots.



The shape and contour of the handle allows for a comfortable overhand (or icepick) grip for occasions where a powerful stab is needed.

“  
**THE FINE  
 EDGE OF THE  
 CM6 SLID  
 THROUGH  
 NYLON  
 SEATBELT  
 WEBBING  
 WITH EASE  
 AND CLEANLY  
 CUT SISAL  
 ROPE.**  
 ”

### CONTACT INFO

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styles from a saber grip to the ice pick grip, and the textured scales and handle shape should keep your hand off of the blade even when wet, or while performing full power stabs and thrusts.

Overall length from tip to pommel is 11.1 inches and weight is a reasonable 10 ounces, which is not bad at all for a hefty 3/16-inch thick full-tang knife.

The CM6 comes with a well-executed Kydex sheath and a removable drop-loop belt clip. The sheath itself uses a sliding tensioner near the top that lets you adjust how much force you need to draw the knife. It can be tightened down fully so the knife can't come out at all if you need to really secure it. It's a nice feature and very easy to use. While I like the Kydex plate that drops the knife low on the belt and a little away from the body, I have mixed feelings about the metal clip it uses in lieu of a belt loop. It works fine and seems secure, but I prefer a more conventional arrangement. Fortunately, the hole pattern on the Kydex sheath will allow you to attach just about any other adapter that you'd like from a large Tek-Lok to a MOLLE plate.

Like ESEE's other knives, the CM6 is made in the U.S.A. by Rowen Manufacturing in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Each knife has a unique serial number and is backed by a no-questions-asked warranty. MSRP is \$240.46, but actual street prices may run up to \$100 lower, which makes the CM6 very competitive with other quality, American-made field knives.

### PROVING ITS WORTH

The CM6 is just a touch longer than what I typically use in field knives. I generally run in the 4 to 5-inch range, so I was curious to see what, if any effect, this slightly longer blade had on both carry and usage compared to my knives. Thankfully, we finally got a break from winter weather where I live in southwestern Pennsylvania, and I had some time to work with the knife without having to worry about shelter building and fire starting being my first priorities.

One of the things I noticed through my testing was that the CM6 carries well. It's a fair-sized knife but its simple, sleek design keeps down weight and bulk. I left the tension on the slider loose enough

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that I could adjust it with finger pressure as needed. When I was hiking, I'd slide it all the way up to lock the knife in the sheath. When I wanted to use the knife I'd slide it down so that I could draw the knife easily. Even in the lowest position, the Kydex tension is still such that the knife isn't going anywhere unless you give a solid tug on the handle of the CM6. It's secure but easy to draw with one hand.

The knife handles well too. The handle proved to be very comfortable and I really didn't find any time when I developed any hot spots, even through extended use. The excellent edge on the 1095 carbon steel worked well for carving, and I could easily bear down to cut notches in tent stakes and trap triggers. I found myself agreeing with Terrill's decision to avoid a thumb ramp or any sort of jimping. I could choke up on the knife as needed and apply pressure to the spine for cuts without tearing my thumb up on over-aggressive jimping or worrying about having to place my thumb in some predetermined spot.

When it came to cutting poles to use for practice shelter building and some bushcraft furniture, I realized one difference between my more common 4-inch field knife and the CM6. The extra few inches of blade makes a pretty distinct difference when it comes to chopping. The stout 3/16-inch thick blade doesn't hurt with its extra mass either.

The ESEE-CM6 comes with a sturdy, well-molded Kydex sheath for safe and efficient carry.



The CM6's handle scales are well-contoured to provide a secure grip without creating hot spots during use.



The spine of the knife has no jimping or serrations to allow the user to position his hand wherever he needs it, and not be locked into a set spot on the knife.





The handle was long enough to choke back on by hooking my ring finger in the rear-most contour, thus adding another inch or so for extra leverage when chopping. I did find myself wishing for a lanyard hole when I did this, but that was really the only situation where I felt the need.

The drop point is really a hybrid of both drop and spear points, and the tip is darn near centerline to the blade, making it easy to use as a drill for projects such as building a fireboard. After using the CM6 to collect dead, low-hanging twigs by snap cutting them off of the drier branches, I tried my hand at building a fire using a ferro rod. I found that the durable powder coating on the ESEE prevented me from getting any sparks with a fire steel. I've run into this with blade coatings before and generally, if you decide that's a need you have, you can always file off an inch or so of the coating on the spine for this purpose.

On the tactical side of things, I did some more urban tasks of cutting rope and webbing, and trying my hand at some

slashes and stabs using a stacked cardboard test target. The fine edge of the CM6 slid through nylon seatbelt webbing with ease and cleanly cut sisal rope. On the cardboard I found that the sharpened back swedge made the knife penetrate much like a dagger, and the nearly 6-inch blade would often sink nearly to the handle in overhand stabs. I suspect it would do the job on a Kevlar vest as well but I didn't want to ruin my body armor to find out.

#### FROM BOB TO BATTLEFIELD

Mr. Hoffman designed the CM6 to fit his own personal needs, but in the process he and ESEE Knives ended up with a knife that should work well for anyone needing a quality, solid, no-frills, mid-sized blade. It would certainly work well for its original mission as a bug-out bag blade, but it would work equally well on a tactical vest or strapped to the body armor of a door kicker in the field. If you want function over flash, then give the ESEE-CM6 a good, hard look the next time you're in the market for a fixed blade. **(K)**



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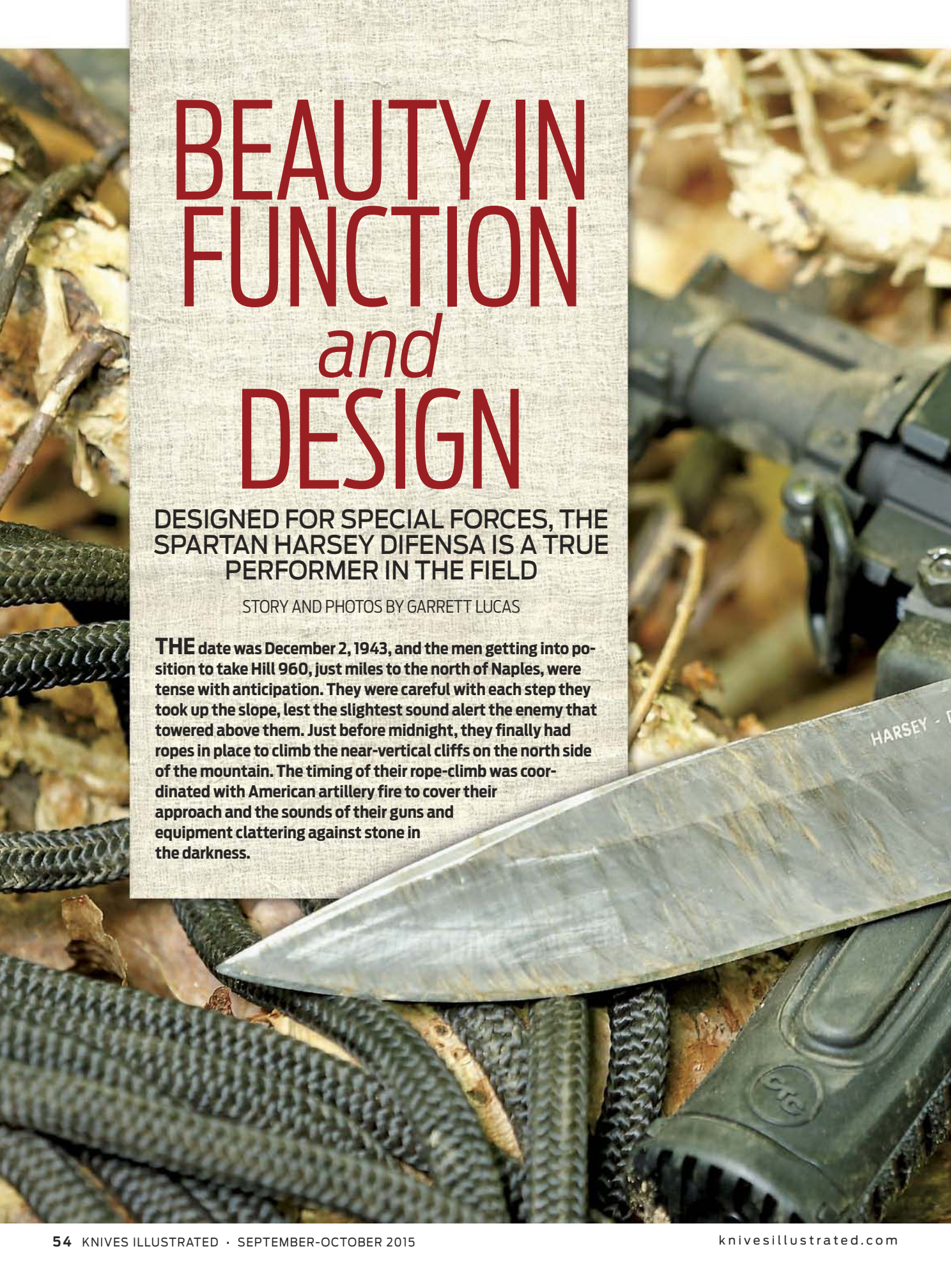
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# BEAUTY IN FUNCTION *and* DESIGN

DESIGNED FOR SPECIAL FORCES, THE SPARTAN HARSEY DIFENSA IS A TRUE PERFORMER IN THE FIELD

STORY AND PHOTOS BY GARRETT LUCAS

**THE** date was December 2, 1943, and the men getting into position to take Hill 960, just miles to the north of Naples, were tense with anticipation. They were careful with each step they took up the slope, lest the slightest sound alert the enemy that towered above them. Just before midnight, they finally had ropes in place to climb the near-vertical cliffs on the north side of the mountain. The timing of their rope-climb was coordinated with American artillery fire to cover their approach and the sounds of their guns and equipment clattering against stone in the darkness.



## SPECIFICATIONS

**KNIFE NAME:** Spartan Harsey Difensa

**DESIGNER:** William Harsey Jr.

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 11 5/8 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 6.25 inches

**BLADE THICKNESS:** 3/16 inches

**BLADE STEEL:** CPM S35VN

**BLADE HARDNESS:** 59-60 HRC

**BLADE STYLE:** Spear Point - Flat ground main bevel with tapered top edge

**COATING:** SpartaCoat - PVD - Tungsten DLC (Black) or ZrN (Flat Dark Earth)

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** 3D Contoured CE Canvas Micarta Black or Green

**WEIGHT:** 0.7 pounds

**MSRP:** \$425

The ascent on the sheer face of Monte La Difensa was difficult enough, but each man also carried a pack weighing well over 60 pounds to add to their burden. At the time, this was considered an almost superhuman endeavor, and was one of the little pieces that played into the unit's mystique. This was not their first day in action, but it would be the moment in time when their specialized training was truly justified. And, it would be the place where their legend would be carved into the annals of military history. They were mem-

bers of the 1st Special Service Force.

We stopped to reflect on that moment in history because we received a test knife from Spartan Blades aptly named the Spartan Harsey Difensa.

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The reason for the name is because an element of the Canadian Special Operations Regiment (CSOR) asked Spartan Blades and knifemaker William (Bill) W. Harsey Jr. to design a knife that would meet the specific needs of



## "...AFTER AT LEAST 50 PUNCTURES THROUGH THE VARIOUS METAL ITEMS, THE TIP WAS STILL INTACT — SHOWING NO SIGNS OF CHIPPING."

their unit in the north woods of Canada. Harsey collaborated with members of that element to define their needs and establish the design requirements, and then Spartan Blades went to work. Because of the special bond formed between Canada and the United States, particularly between members of their respective special operations groups, the Difensa name was given to symbolize that long-standing brotherhood.

Once you get your first look at the Spartan Harsey Difensa, you'll immediately recognize Harsey's design signature by the lines of the blade, the styling characteristics, and the feel of the handle. I own two knives designed by Mr. Harsey, and wrapping my fingers around the handle of the Difensa felt like coming home.

Comparing one of my Harsey-designed knives to the Difensa, I noticed the weight of the Difensa is much more evenly dis-

tributed, with the result being a more neutral balance. While I still like the other knife, the Difensa does feel much more like an extension of my hand, and allows for quicker movement with the blade.

Speaking of balance, Mr. Harsey hit the sweet spot between the two intended roles for the Difensa, performing bushcraft chores and tactical functions—both of which affect the soldier's ability to survive in hostile conditions. As a tactical/defense tool, the Micarta slabs are contoured for a sure grip in wet or dry conditions, and the profile of the blade is a spear-point style with a tapered top edge to aid with penetration. This is a truly for-



The Difensa has a comfortable, but not overly thick handle, and a medium-sized choil for choking up on the knife for better control and precision.



The jimping on the Difensa is superbly done with ridges just wide enough for a secure purchase without cutting into the thumb.

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William Harsey Jr. designed the Spartan Harsey Difensa to be the perfect balance between being a knife for combat and bushcraft.



The standard sheath for the Difensa, made from 1000 Denier Cordura and MIL-SPEC is robust enough for duty use, though some buyers may want to opt for the drop-loop Kydex sheath.

## A MASTER OF TACTICAL DESIGN

Bill Harsey Jr. has worked on some of the most celebrated tactical knives in the last three decades including:

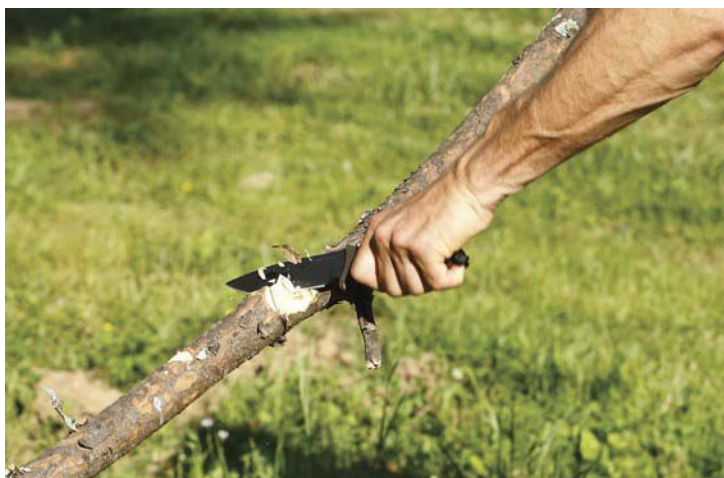
- Gerber's Applegate-Fairbairn Line
- Gerber's Watson/Harsey Silver Trident
- The Neil Roberts Warrior Knife
- The Pacific made by Chris Reeve Knives
- The Yarborough Knife, named after Lt. Gen. William P. Yarborough and presented to each graduate of the United States Army Special Forces Qualification Course from August, 2002 until early this year

midable weapon in the hands of a capable operator.

## HOW'S THAT FIRE COMING?

Aside from being a tactical tool, the Difensa also has to ably perform bushcraft chores as well. The north woods of Canada can be hostile territory at times, and a knife has to be just as reliable at dealing with outdoors tasks as it does with tactical jobs. The 3/16-inch thick blade has enough heft to do some light chopping for erecting a shelter, building a litter, improvising traps, or other similar tasks. It performed well for us in this area, and there was no problem in chopping multiple saplings, and even dead hardwood — though this always takes a bit longer.

The thickness, along with 6.25-inch blade makes it a viable tool for those who use the baton technique for processing firewood. Another feature that checks



Even with its neutral balance, the Difensa performs well at light chopping tasks, making it easier to improvise during survival scenarios.



## " ... HARSEY HIT THE SWEET SPOT BETWEEN THE TWO INTENDED ROLES FOR THE DIFENSA, PERFORMING BUSHCRAFT CHORES AND TACTICAL FUNCTIONS."

boxes in both columns is the use of S35VN steel for the knife's construction. S35VN is Crucible Industries' improvement on the already-lauded S30V steel. It has a higher rating for toughness which further prevents against edge chipping, and it's one of the better knife steels for corrosion resistance.

The Difensa has a finish called SpartaCoat (PVD-Tungsten DLC), and it gives the knife a sleek look in either black or Flat Dark Earth. In contrast to a lot of similarly styled tactical/bushcraft knives with a powder coating, I was able to get sparks off of a Swedish FireSteel using the Difensa's spine. While I wouldn't want to make that a regular routine, it does come in handy at times.

### EXTRA FEATURES

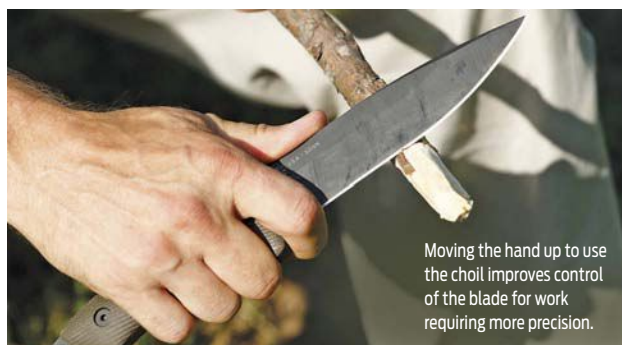
The Difensa comes with a moderately-sized choil. The choil allows the user to choke up on a longer blade for fine, precision work if needed. The flat grind on the Difensa's blade was perfect for the bushcraft tests we performed. Whether it was making fuzz sticks, carving triggers, or just making a few shelter stakes, the Difensa performed just as well as any other bushcraft-specific knife I've used.

### A HISTORY OF HEROES

#### THE BATTLE OF MONTE LA DIFENSA

Known by the Germans as "The Black Devils" (as legend would have it), the 1st Special Service Force was a joint venture by the United States of America and Canada to create a team of elite soldiers with specialized training to undertake special missions in the European theater during World War II.

It was important that Canada be part of the operation because of their soldiers' cold-weather experience. Once the 1st Special Service Force soldiers completed their training, they conducted operations in the Aleutian Islands, Italy, and in France. Because of the nearly impossible climb they made to overtake the Germans and take the mountain, their reputation was solidified in Italy that December during the Battle of Monte La Difensa.



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It's a toss-up to say whether I endorse spine jimping or not. I've seen examples that work well and a lot that don't. The jimping at the top of the handle of the Difensa works. The ridges are wider than most, and are finished off nicely. There are just enough surface breaks to get a secure fix on the top of the knife without feeling like your thumb is bearing down on a rasp. Just like the weight distribution of the knife, the jimping strikes the right balance between too little and far too much.

### CARRYING THE DIFENSA

The standard sheath is a fully functional piece of gear made of 1000 Denier Cordura and MIL-SPEC webbing. It has a Kydex insert that holds the Difensa snugly, yet allows the knife to be flipped for left- or right-hand carry. It was de-

**"ONCE YOU GET YOUR FIRST LOOK AT THE SPARTAN HARSEY DIFENSA, YOU'LL IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZE HARSEY'S DESIGN SIGNATURE..."**

signed for hard service, and is a one-size-fits-all offering since it is an issue piece. The most impressive part of the sheath is the build quality and the number of attachment modes that can be employed. It comes with an adjustable belt loop (up to 3.5 inches), PALS loops on the front for a pouch, and PALS Loops and paracord lashing on the back to attach to vests, packs or other tactical

gear. Spartan Blades offers an optional Kydex sheath on their website for those wishing to upgrade.

### ONE MORE THING

Even though the Difensa performed superbly in all of our tests, we took it a bit further for curiosity's sake. I was interested to see how the reverse taper on the top edge would aid in penetration, and how well the tip would hold up to non-standard use. That's code for abuse. We rummaged around for a number of metal items to puncture with the Difensa, including paint can lids, galvanized steel containers like buckets and garden boxes, and went to work with hard overhand stabs. Unfortunately, no car hoods were available at the time.

Even as I think about it now, I'm cringing a bit. This is not what you would normally use a knife for in the field. However,

Multiple overhand stabs through metal paint cans, galvanized steel tubs, more abuse than use, did not adversely affect Difensa's tip.



PALS loops on the front and back of the sheath, along with paracord lashing, allows for a number attachment options to other tactical gear.



The flat grind of the Difensa's blade along with the tapered top edge helps enhance penetration.



The full-tang handle ensures the Difensa's strength, and the medium-height grip slabs make the Difensa a sleek tool that's both easy to carry and use.



The flat grind of the Difensa's blade results in excellent edge geometry, allowing fine cuts for bushcraft work

"normally" is a relative term, and you never know what you might encounter during a survival situation. I'm glad to report that, after at least 50 punctures through the various metal items, the tip was still intact — showing no signs of chipping. The tapered top edge did seem to facilitate penetration by lowering the amount of drag at the spine, having relieved it of the typical wedge profile of most flat-grind knives. All in all, the Difensa overcame each trial quite handily, and it's easy to see why the element members within CSOR chose Spartan Blades to produce the issue knives for their unit.

### A SALUTE TO THE MEN

The Spartan Harsey Difensa is a great tool for anyone heading off to the military, or just into the woods. Based on the collaboration between real operators in Canada, and one of the best knifemakers of our generation, how could it not be as good as it is? The Spartan Harsey Difensa was designed to be used by Special Forces operators whose lives may well depend on it. That's a high threshold to meet, but from what I've experienced from my use of it, they've exceeded that threshold soundly. Further, by recognizing the history between our two countries and giving a nod

### CONTACT:

**WEBSITE:** [www.SpartanBlades.com](http://www.SpartanBlades.com)  
**EMAIL:** [contact@spartanbladesusa.com](mailto:contact@spartanbladesusa.com)  
**ADDRESS:** Spartan Blades USA  
 624 S.E. Service Road  
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**PHONE:** (910) 757-0035



Even with the SpartaCoat, sparks were obtained from a Swedish FireSteel against the spine — unlike a lot of offerings with a thick powder coat. A definite plus!

to the members of the 1st Special Service Force with the Difensa name, Spartan Blades has also built a testament in steel that represents a legacy of duty, honor, and brotherhood that will last through the ages. Good for them. **KI**

*Garrett Lucas has been an outdoors and preparedness enthusiast for twenty-five years. His areas of interest and expertise include firearms, edged tools, and preparedness. He has written articles on these topics for over eight years.*

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# INTERSECTION OF TWO ARTS

THE MASTER CRAFTSMANSHIP OF ERIC EGGY  
& TOP CUSTOM KNIFEMAKERS

TEXT BY K.I. STAFF

**R. BUCKMINSTER FULLER** once said, “When I’m working on a problem, I never think about beauty. I think only how to solve the problem. But when I have finished, if the solution is not beautiful, I know it is wrong.”

In a way, this is the process of most creatives whether it’s writing a story, making something with their hands, or creating an image. The problem most often is simply how to express something, either an idea, such as what makes an excellent knife, or how to visually reveal that knife’s excellence.

In this pictorial, we share images that are the intersection of two art forms. First, there are the creations by well-known knifemakers — master craftsmen in their own right — and second, is the presentation of those creations by the photographer, Eric Eggy of Point Seven Studios.

In the following pages, you will think about beauty. (KI)

Knife Maker: DANIEL WINKLER



Whisper Knives



Knife Maker: RICARDO VELARDE





Knife Maker: JEFF KNOX

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## EDITOR'S CHOICE

# TOP KNIVES & PRODUCTS FROM THE 2015 BLADE SHOW

BY GARRETT LUCAS AND JOSHUA SWANAGON

**WHETHER** it was custom creators that make 15-20 knives a year or manufacturers that make hundreds of knives in a week, there was something for everyone at the 2015 Blade Show.

It's always a festive atmosphere at the annual Blade Show, but this year seemed a bit more energetic, a little more feverish and a bit more crowded. Thousands of knife enthusiasts visited the Cobb Galleria in Atlanta, Georgia to drop in on the booths of some of their favorite knife makers.

In the following section, we have highlighted the top picks. Of course, there were too many great products to include them all, but we think you'll like what you're about to see.

Now, grab a Coke, sit back, and enjoy the show! (KI)



Photo by Stephen Bell



## 1 Multi-Mission Axe

**COMPANY:** Outland Equipment

**WEBSITE:** [www.OutlandEquipment.com](http://www.OutlandEquipment.com)

**MSRP:** From \$465

The Multi-Mission Axe is a perfect survival tool for urban environments.

Made of shock-resistant S-7 steel, it includes a hex nut tool in the head of the blade. It sports a 3.9-inch cutting head along with a tanto spike on the reverse side. The axe comes with a 15- or 19-inch long handle, and incorporates both a replaceable hammer poll and a pry bar at the bottom, both of which will come in handy when you need to tear into things with gusto. Finished in Cerakote, and with an overall thickness of .95 inch with the G-10 slabs, this axe is not only functional, but quite elegant as well.

A definite must for the urban bug-out bag.



## 3 Proficient

**COMPANY:** Spyderco

**WEBSITE:** [www.Spyderco.com](http://www.Spyderco.com)

**MSRP:** \$480.95

**EDITOR'S  
CHOICE**

Not everything has to be the same, and not all bushcraft knives have to have a Scandi grind. In fact, some of us prefer a flat grind. Lucky for us, Spyderco just introduced the new Proficient bushcraft knife, which has just that.

And, to step up the game a bit, the Proficient's 4-inch blade is made from CPM S90V. That alone adds a new dimension to the bushcraft lifestyle. Instead of regular high-carbon steels that reside in most bushcraft knives, the Proficient's blade is highly wear-resistant and has corrosion resistance properties rivaling 440C. That means the blade holds an edge longer, resists chipping, and sings a tune while dancing in the rain. A solid piece of carbon fiber is contoured and fitted to the handle to provide an extremely comfortable and ergonomic grip for the user. With the supplied leather sheath, the Proficient promises to keep with traditions while becoming a next-generation bushcraft knife.

## 2 Hell Razor

**COMPANY:** Red Horse Knifeworks

**WEBSITE:** [www.RedHorseKnifeworks.com](http://www.RedHorseKnifeworks.com)

**MSRP:** \$547

Your grandfather would have loved this knife!

Fashioned after the customary straight razor design, the Hell Razor is built for heavy-duty social work. With an overall length of 5 inches, this folder has a 3.75-inch blade made of 5/32 inch thick CPM 154 steel, and is profiled with a full flat grind. The stonewash finish gives this knife a no-nonsense appearance, and the premium stainless stand-offs and titanium liners finish it off with a touch of class.



## 4 fireSLEEVE

**COMPANY:** Exotac

**WEBSITE:** [www.Exotac.com](http://www.Exotac.com)

**MSRP:** \$15-\$18

A product doesn't have to be expensive in order to be extremely useful.

The Exotac fireSLEEVE is a great idea for protecting and retaining a standard Bic lighter. A lot of folks who like the outdoors, may not have developed their bushcraft skills to make fire using primitive methods, but a Bic lighter helps even the playing field. The fireSLEEVE stretches over the lighter and comes with a cap that snaps securely in place to prevent the gas button from being accidentally depressed.

There's also a specially designed band that can be slipped over the button to keep the flame going without having to hold the button down with your thumb. With the cap, the fireSLEEVE is waterproof to 3 feet for 30 minutes, and has attachment points to secure it to your pack, belt, or other accessible locations.



## 5 Censor 1320

**COMPANY:** Steel Will

**WEBSITE:** [www.SteelWillKnives.com](http://www.SteelWillKnives.com)

**MSRP:** \$59.99

The perfect companion for your EDC firearm, the Censor 1320 has a lot going for it, considering its very accessible price.

We liked the 1320 because of its clip-point profile for easier penetration and because of the extremely comfortable pistol grip that makes it easy for even a novice user to maintain a good purchase on the handle. The Censor's .16-inch thick blade is 3.54 inches long and is made of AUS-8 steel, while the handle and the sheath are both constructed of nylon, and the handle is textured with a diamond pattern to facilitate a sure grip even in wet conditions. The thin profile of the handle and sheath makes it a great IWB carry piece for close-up defensive work.



## 6 S.E.R.T.

**COMPANY:** Al Mar Knives

**WEBSITE:** [www.AlMarKnives.com](http://www.AlMarKnives.com)

**MSRP:** \$240

A new player on the market, and unique to the rest of the products, is the Al Mar Knives Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (S.E.R.T.) automatic knife.

A nice addition to this knife is the use of S30V for the blade, and the machined aluminum scales for the handle. The scales are contoured nicely and have an unusual textured pattern for a sure fit in the hand and just plain great looks. If, indeed, an emergency does arise, the S.E.R.T.'s 3.3-inch blade opens powerfully and is quickly deployed to respond to the crisis. It also has a deep, black, stainless steel pocket clip that helps it stay in place so it's there when you need it. With a blade thickness of .1 inch, the S.E.R.T. weighs in at just 4.0 ounces making it a mid-weight folder that's just right for carrying on the job.





## 7 Inkosi

**COMPANY:** Chris Reeve Knives  
**WEBSITE:** [www.ChrisReeve.com](http://www.ChrisReeve.com)  
**MSRP:** \$375

**EDITOR'S  
CHOICE**

Continuing in his quest to make the perfect folder, Chris Reeve has added a new family of knives to his portfolio.

Steering away from the larger folders he made in the past, the new Inkosi is actually smaller than the Sebenza 21 Small model, but judging from the specs, appears to be better overall. The Inkosi (Zulu for “Chief”) has a 2.75-inch S35VN blade, which is shorter than the 2.94-inch blade of the small Sebenza 21, but is 8% thicker, resulting in a stronger blade for more robust work if needed. Other improvements include oversized washers with extra-large grease pockets, a sturdier stop pin, and CRK’s Large Hollow Grind, which is achieved due to the blade’s extra thickness.

The phrase, “Go big or go home,” does not apply here, as it seems there’s a new Sheriff, or Chief, in town.



## 8 Camp Lore ESEE-DC6

**COMPANY:** ESEE Knives  
 Camp Lore ESEE-DC6  
**WEBSITE:** [www.ESEKnives.com](http://www.ESEKnives.com)  
**MSRP:** To be determined

A highly anticipated product this year is the Camp Lore series from ESEE Knives. We had an opportunity to look at and handle the newest member of the group to be released, the ESEE-DC6, and, at first glance, it lives up to the hype.

Meant more for the outdoors and bushcraft crowd, the Camp Lore series have more rounded handles for comfort, and uncoated blades of 1095 steel — with the DC6’s blade measuring 6 inches. What stands out about these blades is they can be individualized by each customer putting their own custom patina on the blade. The removable Micarta grip slabs make that process much easier. The addition of a natural patina and the included leather pouch makes the knife more at home in the woods doing things the old way.

There’s no MSRP yet, but knowing ESEE knives, it’s going to be a good price for a great value in a knife!

## 9 451 Button Lock Flipper Folder

**COMPANY:** Freeman Outdoor Gear  
**WEBSITE:** [www.FreemanOutdoorGear.com](http://www.FreemanOutdoorGear.com)  
**MSRP:** \$199.95

Sometimes a splash of color draws the eye, and that was certainly true of the Freeman Outdoor Gear Button Lock Flipper Folder.

It’s an all-black folder except for the G-10 handle inserts, which really pop in contrast to the rest of the knife. The Flipper Folder has a 3.75 inch D2 steel blade that’s 5/32 inch thick. The blade and the handle are both finished with Cerakote. The handle is constructed of aluminum and gives the knife a lightweight feel, and the Grade 10 ball bearings make this flipper open and lock with little effort at all. There are several colors of G-10 handle inserts along with one in Olive Drab Micarta, and even inserts that glow in the dark!

If glow-in-the-dark inserts don’t get your motor revving, we don’t know what will.



## 10 Mid-Tech Camp Knife

**COMPANY:** Fiddleback Forge

**WEBSITE:** [www.FiddlebackForge.com](http://www.FiddlebackForge.com)

**MSRP:** \$350

Andy Roy has been known for several years as a great designer of custom knives, especially those for the outdoors.

To meet the demand for his knives, he started a Mid-Tech line of his popular designs, which provides the benefit and styling of his custom pieces, but at a reduced price. The Camp Knife is 12 inches long overall, with a blade length of 6.5 inches. The blade is made of CPM 3V steel and the handle slabs are constructed of canvas Micarta. We've used knives from Fiddleback Forge before, and the Mid-Tech Camp knife has all the touches we'd expect from their custom line. The handle feels fantastic, and it has an extra bit of length to allow you to shift the position of your hand while doing different kinds of work.

It was such a nice product, one of our intrepid reporters bought one on the spot. Definitely a product worth checking out.

## 11 Brend/Pirela Mamba

**COMPANY:** Spyderco

**WEBSITE:** [www.Spyderco.com](http://www.Spyderco.com)

**MSRP:** \$539.95

Wow! This was the word uttered when we first saw this knife, and again when we first held it.

The Brend/Pirela Mamba is an incredible design for a tactical folder. Considered a "flipper", the Mamba still offers the trademark Spyderco hole in the blade for use to open the knife instead of the flipper mechanism. The 3.77-inch S30V blade has a beautiful, upswept design and rides on ball bearing washers for a fast and smooth deployment of the blade. The locking mechanism is a titanium liner lock, which is surrounded by carbon fiber scales. The overall length is 5.48 inches and the weight is 6.5 ounces.

With a .18-inch thick blade, the Mamba is a true predator with a sharp bite. Evil-doers beware!



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## 12 MBB Jungle Sword

**COMPANY:** Miller Brothers Blades

**WEBSITE:** [www.MillerBrosBlades.com](http://www.MillerBrosBlades.com)

**MSRP:** From \$600

Tired of the same old machetes on your quests and adventures? The MBB Jungle Sword might just be the right choice for you the next time you go into the bush.

Its 16-inch blade provides enough reach to clear your path, while the improved steel and the aggressive point make it a formidable weapon. You can have your choice of steel including Z-Wear PM, CPM 3V and 5160 to fill out the 2 5/8-inch wide blade. If those aren't enough choices, you can also select blade thickness, point types, and different pommel styles. The handle material is made of G-10 FR4, and the sword comes with a custom Kydex sheath.

This is what you wanted when you were a kid, but just didn't know it. Now's the time to fulfill a dream!

## 13 CQC Utility

**COMPANY:** TOPS Knives

**WEBSITE:** [www.TopsKnives.com](http://www.TopsKnives.com)

**MSRP:** To be determined

Who doesn't like a multi-function blade?

The TOPS Knives CQC Utility is a simple, but extremely versatile knife that can be used in many scenarios. It can be used as a utility/EDC knife for basic tasks with its 4.25-inch blade. However, if something goes sideways, it can double as a fighting knife with its Karambit-style handle. For defensive work, the knife can be held in a standard grip with the pinky finger in the hole, or the blade can be reversed with the index finger inserted. The CQC Utility is 8.38 inches long overall, and is .18 inch thick. This 6.5 ounce knife is robust enough to deal with the devil, but still slim enough for IWB carry.

With its beautifully textured tan Micarta grips for a sure purchase, this is a tool you should seriously consider as an easy tool to have on hand for whatever cutting need you may have.



## 14 Uplander

**COMPANY:** Behring Made

**WEBSITE:** [www.BehringMade.com](http://www.BehringMade.com)

**MSRP:** \$275

Behring Made just added three more members to their Technical line, and one that caught our eye was the Uplander.

Though a little smaller than most of its brethren, the Uplander seems to have enough attitude to hold its own. The Uplander is constructed from S7 steel, and has a 3.5-inch blade (from tip to choil) with an aggressive clip-point profile. The one that we saw had beautiful cocobolo wood grips and a slot for a lanyard to help with retrieval. The Uplander at the show had a forced patina with acid etching and gun bluing done at the shop, but Cerakote can be applied instead if you like. There are also a variety of materials for the handle including Micarta and G-10. This little knife looks like it can do it all. You can clean game, use it for last-ditch defensive work, or just wander the highlands while cutting meat and cheese for your lunch.

Life doesn't get any better than this!



**EDITOR'S  
CHOICE**

## THE SURVIVAL STAFF

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Grimsno Knives milling a fixed blade, called The Tor, on a Tormach PCNC 1100.

**[www.tormach.com/knives](http://www.tormach.com/knives)**



## 15 Kukri

**COMPANY:** RMJ Tactical  
**WEBSITE:** [www.RMJTactical.com](http://www.RMJTactical.com)  
**MSRP:** To be determined

**EDITOR'S  
CHOICE**

Known for its no-nonsense, hard-hitting, tactical tomahawks, RMJ Tactical has come out with yet another chopper that's off the reservation, so to speak.

The new RMJ Kukri appears to inherently possess the same toughness as the company's other products. It's machined from German-made 80CrV2 carbon steel, and it has a 15.5-inch overall length, with a blade length of 10 inches. At its widest point, the blade is 2.3 inches to provide a weight-forward blade to add momentum while chopping. The handles are made of G10 FR4, and are attached with stainless steel tube rivets. The Kukri also comes with an ambidextrous sheath that offers different carry configurations.

If it lives up to the RMJ name, and performs as good as it looks, it will open the field for Kukri fans looking for a tough tool to do some real work in the field!



## 16 Selkirk

**COMPANY:** Buck Knives  
**WEBSITE:** [www.BuckKnives.com](http://www.BuckKnives.com)  
**MSRP:** \$85

There's something sexy about the Buck Knives Selkirk, and we can't quite figure out what it is.

Maybe it's the curves, the price, the sheath kit, or even the heat treat. Or it could simply be all those things that come together in a great package. The Selkirk comes with a 4 5/8-inch blade, with a drop-point profile, made of 420HC steel, and it's got a BOS heat treat, so you know you're going to get the most out of the steel. The entire knife has a slight curve to the profile, and that's augmented by the CNC-machined, contoured Micarta Handle. The Selkirk also comes with matching, attractive steel bolsters, and the rear one can be used as a hammer.

Throw in an injection-molded sheath with an accompanying firesteel and a forever warranty, and you'd be hard pressed to find a better deal for the money!

## 17 Boker Plus Urban Trapper

**COMPANY:** Boker  
**WEBSITE:** [www.Boker.de/us/](http://www.Boker.de/us/)  
**MSRP:** \$159.95

We've not been invited to a black-tie dinner before, but if the invitation came, this is probably the knife we would carry.

A popular choice as a gentleman's knife, the Urban Trapper line now has three new models including this one with carbon fiber scales on the titanium handles. Sporting a slender design along with a 3.5-inch VG-10 blade, this flipper-style knife comes in at 7.75 inches overall. Those that want the refined look without the refined price can opt for either G-10 or Cocobolo scales, both of which reduce the MSRP to just \$104.95.

Quite a bargain to live the high life!



## 19 Spider-Monkey

**COMPANY:** Southern Grind  
**WEBSITE:** [www.SouthernGrind.com](http://www.SouthernGrind.com)  
**MSRP:** \$219.95-\$234.95

New for Blade, and for Southern Grind, is the Spider-Monkey folding knife.

This late-generation knife has top shelf materials including a CPM S35VN blade and carbon fiber handle scales. The blade profile comes to a drop point, which makes the Spider-Monkey right at home doing defensive work or doing light bushcraft chores out in the bush. Tipping the scales at just 3.2 ounces with a 3.13 inch blade, the Spider-Monkey is a mid-size knife that'll easily find a home in a pocket, purse, or pack. If you're feeling "froggy" the Spider-Monkey can also be configured with a partially-serrated blade to help chew through what you're cutting just a bit quicker.

This monkey might see no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil, but it has no problem "doing" as long as you point the way!



## 18 Torreya

**COMPANY:** Columbia River Knife & Tool  
**WEBSITE:** [www.CRKT.com](http://www.CRKT.com)  
**MSRP:** \$69.99

We know there are a lot of CRKT fans out there, and a "Best of Blade" article wouldn't be complete without one of the company's offerings.

New for the Blade Show is the Torreya folding knife. With its drop-point blade profile, and the brown resin-infused handle, it's reminiscent of a traditional-style hunting knife. The blade is 3.6 inches long and is .11 inches thick, making it a solid contender for skinning chores during hunting season. The steel is 7CR17MoV with 2CR13MoV liners. It comes with a lanyard hole to help with easy retrieval from a pocket, and it sports a thumb stud for one-handed opening.

At the suggested MSRP of \$69.99, this is definitely an attractive choice to take with you into the woods!





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## 20 Rival Featherweight

**COMPANY:** Anglesey

**WEBSITE:** [www.AngleseyGear.com](http://www.AngleseyGear.com)

**MSRP:** \$225

If you're looking for a large, capable knife that is easy to carry and holds up to the elements, look no further than the Rival Featherweight.

Coming in at just 5.2 ounces, the Rival Featherweight incorporates both a skeletonized handle and injection molding to create a knife that is a breeze to carry. Aiding in the lightweight construction is the .09 inch thick 440C stainless steel. It's perfect for outdoor use since it's very resistant to corrosion. Despite the weight, the Rival Featherweight is 11.75 inches overall and boasts a 6-inch blade. To assist with multiple carry options, the fitted Kydex sheath is MOLLE compatible, and reversible for left- or right-hand carry. Grenade-pattern G-10 grips ensure a firm grip when you're out in the wet weather.

This knife has all you're looking for and still won't weigh you down!



## 21 Sin Bad

**COMPANY:** Zombie Tools

**WEBSITE:** [www.ZombieTools.net](http://www.ZombieTools.net)

**MSRP:** \$349.95

A new legend has been born, and its sole purpose is to deal with unsavory things that go bump in the dark.

Deemed a machete-class weapon, the Sin Bad will do a lot more than chop vines and grass. Its weighted head gives it just a bit more momentum during the swing to ensure the top half of the zombie's head comes off clean, and the 21.5-inch blade length gives plenty of reach to stay away from the splatter. Weighing just shy of 2 pounds, the Sin Bad offers surprising specs like a 28 inch overall length, and steel thickness of .20 inches. This is a weapon you can move and strike with quickly. To help in that process, it comes with a molded Kydex sheath with a rear opening for a quick draw, and a set of rings that will allow you to set it up for side carry.

Yes, you are now ready for the night!

## 22 BOLO (Be On the Look Out)

**COMPANY:** Three Circle Knives

**WEBSITE:** [www.ThreeCircleKnives.com](http://www.ThreeCircleKnives.com)

**MSRP:** \$149.95

While walking by the Three Circle Knives booth at Blade Show, we were immediately drawn to the simplistic, yet ergonomic design of the B.O.L.O.

With its form-fitting skeletonized body, the B.O.L.O. offers an aggressive profile ready for any self-defense scenario. Offering a 2-inch blade with a flat grind means that the B.O.L.O. can be carried legally in most states, and the 3/16-inch D2 steel will serve well when using the B.O.L.O. for hard use chores. Perhaps even more intriguing is the innovative carry system.

It's not every day that you see a pocket clip on a fixed blade knife, but with the ingenious hook on the Kydex sheath, designed to catch the pocket during deployment, the B.O.L.O. can be brought to bear at a moment's notice.



## 23 Link-Tanto, Gray

**COMPANY:** Kershaw  
**WEBSITE:** [www.Kai-USA.com](http://www.Kai-USA.com)  
**MSRP:** \$69.99



Flippers seem to be the rage, and we found one that offers nice build quality for a nice price as well.

The new Kershaw Link with the Tanto point and Gray Aluminum Blackwash is a sleek design, and tips the scales at 4.8 ounces. Using a combination of aluminum handles and a 3.25-inch 420HC blade, the Link has a sturdy build quality and it's even made in the U.S.A.! As mentioned, it uses a flipper-style opening mechanism and uses a liner lock once the blade is opened. Another great option for the user is a set of pre-drilled holes on the opposite side so the clip can be reversed for either left- or right-hand carry. All of this for a low MSRP of \$69.99.

If you're looking for a defensive folder, the Link's tanto point and fast-opening flipper mechanism will serve you well without busting the bank.

## 24 LK375 Light Knife

**COMPANY:** Coast  
**WEBSITE:** [www.CoastPortland.com](http://www.CoastPortland.com)  
**MSRP:** \$58.99



Ever had the need to cut something the dark, and with a light in one hand and a knife in the other, you couldn't hold what you needed to cut? Well, fear no more.

Coast has introduced a new product that solves that annoying problem. It's a folding knife that has an LED flashlight built into the handle. Surprisingly, it's a powerful light given its size with a 110 lumen rating and a 1.5-hour runtime. You can switch the light mode to Low and get 29 lumens with a 4-hour runtime instead. The knife blade itself is made of 7Cr17 steel and the handle is made of a polycarbonate material. The knife has an overall length of 8.5 inches including the 3.75-inch blade, and it weighs right at 5.2 ounces. A couple of positive notes on the Light Knife is that it uses a common AAA battery (no button cells or the like) and it has an IPX7 rating, meaning it's waterproof. This is a tool that can definitely be used on the trail and in inclement weather for setting up camp, or used in maritime environments.

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## GLUES & FILLERS

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New for 2015, Jantz introduces our new line of Paw Prints™ Mosaic Pins™. The perfect pin to compliment any hunting knife or a special project for the dog lover in your life. Use as rivets or to pin guards. Or replace your thong hole with Paw Prints™ for stand out contrast. Pins available in 3 3/4" lengths also.



Paw Prints™ Mosaic Pins™ on Tan G10 with scrimshaw design. Custom knife designed and built by Jose Gpe. Ruiz Garcia, Mexico.



3/16" x 12" 1/4" x 12" 1/4" x 12"  
Doberman #MP380 \$22.95 Shepherd #MP455 \$44.95 Lab #MP480 \$44.95

#### 1/8" Diameter x 12" Length



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#### 5/32" Diameter x 12" Length



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Morning Star #MP300 \$22.95 Lucky Clover #MP310 \$22.95 Ferris Wheel #MP340 \$29.95

#### 7/32" Diameter x 12" Length



Starburst #MP700 \$39.95 Wind Tunnel #MP730 \$39.95 Northern Star #MP785 \$39.95

#### 1/4" Diameter x 12" Length



Circle of Light #MP405 \$44.95 Four of a Kind #MP410 \$44.95 Meteorite #MP440 \$44.95

### Books and DVD's



Contemporary Scrimshaw By Eva Halat Book #BOK133 \$38.95  
Beginning Scrimshaw By Sandra Brady DVD #VL201 \$38.95  
Scrimshaw Techniques Advancing to Color By Sandra Brady DVD #VL202 \$38.95

### Dental Style Picks



CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
DP339	6 pc Dental Style Picks	9.44

### Renaissance Wax



CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
RW065	Renaissance Wax 2.3 oz	15.95
RW200	Renaissance Wax 7 oz	24.95

### Scrimshaw Kit



Contains key chain blank, key ring, scratching tool, bottle of India ink, steel wool, carbon paper, tracing samples, applicator and instructions.

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
TR101	Scrimshaw Kit	14.95

### Inks

Performs like liquid watercolor with beautiful color concentration and movement. These inks are known for their extreme lightfast and non-fading qualities among a brilliant line of colors. Excellent for scrimshaw. Inks are in a 1oz eye dropper bottle.



CAT.#	COLOR	TYPE	PRICE
HI44635	Yellow	Pigment Based	3.75
HI44645	Red	Pigment Based	3.75
HI44655	Carmine	Pigment Based	3.75
HI44685	Blue	Pigment Based	3.75
HI44695	Green	Pigment Based	3.75
HI44705	Brown	Pigment Based	3.75
HI44112	Gray	Dye Based	3.75
HI44115	Russett	Dye Based	3.75
HI44100	White	Pigment Based	3.75
HI44201	India Ink	Pigment Based	3.75



Bond porous and non-porous materials including; wood, metal, carbon fiber and other composites and plastics with this selection of high quality CA glues. HOT STUFF ORIGINAL is a thin CA glue with water-like viscosity (3cps). Cure time is three to five seconds between tightly fitting, non-porous parts. SUPER T GAP FILLER is a medium gap filling glue with a viscosity similar to syrup (200-300 cps). Cures within 10-25 seconds giving you additional positioning time. SPECIAL T GAP FILLER is a thick gap filling glue with a viscosity similar to honey (1150-1500 cps). NCF QUICK ACCELERATOR will decrease cure time with only a light mist applied from 8-12 inches away. SUPER SOLVENT used to debond and dissolve CA glue from your hands and other surfaces.

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	SIZE	PRICE
SC101	Hot Stuff Original	2 oz	12.95
SC102	Hot Stuff Original	4 oz	24.59
SC103	Super T Medium	2 oz	12.95
SC104	Super T Thick	2 oz	13.45
SC105	Quick Accelerator	6 oz	15.95
SC106	Solvent Debonder	2 oz	10.95

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CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
WE105A	1 qt #105 Resin	39.71
WE206A	.44 pt #206 Slow Hardener	20.50
WE6508	G/Flex Liquid 4 oz.	22.49
WE6558	G/Flex Pre-Thickened 4.5 oz.	24.65
WE8654	G5 Minute Adhesive	21.48

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### Toxic Orange



CAT.#	THICK	SIZE	PRICE
KI1817	1/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	8.95
KI1317	3/16"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	9.95
KI1417	1/4"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	14.95
KI1017	3/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	19.95

### Toxic Green



CAT.#	THICK	SIZE EACH PIECE	PRICE
KI1803	1/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	8.95
KI1303	3/16"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	9.95
KI1403	1/4"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	14.95
KI1003	3/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	19.95

### Vivid Blue



CAT.#	THICK	SIZE	PRICE
KI1823	1/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	8.95
KI1323	3/16"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	9.95
KI1423	1/4"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	14.95
KI1023	3/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	19.95

### Cyclone



CAT.#	THICK	SIZE	PRICE
KI1822	1/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	8.95
KI1322	3/16"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	9.95
KI1422	1/4"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	14.95
KI1022	3/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	19.95

### Bengal Tiger



CAT.#	THICK	SIZE	PRICE
KI1816	1/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	8.95
KI1316	3/16"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	9.95
KI1416	1/4"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	14.95
KI1016	3/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	19.95

### Sun Spot



CAT.#	THICK	SIZE	PRICE
KI1825	1/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	8.95
KI1325	3/16"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	9.95
KI1425	1/4"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	14.95
KI1025	3/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	19.95

### Venom



CAT.#	THICK	SIZE	PRICE
KI1820	1/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	8.95
KI1320	3/16"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	9.95
KI1420	1/4"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	14.95
KI1020	3/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	19.95

### Purple Haze



CAT.#	THICK	SIZE	PRICE
KI1824	1/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	8.95
KI1324	3/16"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	9.95
KI1424	1/4"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	14.95
KI1024	3/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	19.95

### Desert Camo



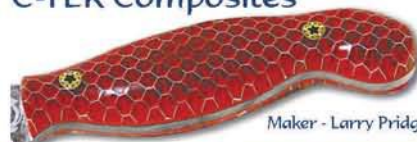
CAT.#	THICK	SIZE	PRICE
KI1802	1/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	8.95
KI1302	3/16"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	9.95
KI1402	1/4"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	14.95
KI1002	3/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	19.95

### Red Pearl



CAT.#	THICK	SIZE EACH PIECE	PRICE
KI1808	1/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	8.95
KI1308	3/16"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	10.95
KI1408	1/4"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	13.95
KI1008	3/8"	Scale 1 1/2" x 10"	19.95

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CAT. #	COLOR	THICKNESS	PRICE
CH481	Red	1/8"	13.95
CH482	Orange	1/8"	13.95
CH483	Green	1/8"	13.95
CH484	Brown	1/8"	13.95
CH485	Clear	1/8"	13.95
CH486	Yellow	1/8"	13.95
CH487	Blue	1/8"	13.95
CH441	Red	1/4"	15.95
CH442	Orange	1/4"	15.95
CH443	Green	1/4"	15.95
CH444	Brown	1/4"	15.95
CH445	Clear	1/4"	15.95
CH446	Yellow	1/4"	15.95
CH447	Blue	1/4"	15.95

#### 1/8" CELL

CAT. #	COLOR	THICKNESS	PRICE
CH881	Red	1/8"	13.95
CH882	Orange	1/8"	13.95
CH883	Green	1/8"	13.95
CH884	Brown	1/8"	13.95
CH885	Clear	1/8"	13.95
CH886	Yellow	1/8"	13.95
CH887	Blue	1/8"	13.95
CH841	Red	1/4"	15.95
CH842	Orange	1/4"	15.95
CH843	Green	1/4"	15.95
CH844	Brown	1/4"	15.95
CH845	Clear	1/4"	15.95
CH846	Yellow	1/4"	15.95
CH847	Blue	1/4"	15.95

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" ... SOME OF HIS DESIGNS WERE ACCIDENTS, AND HE HAS BEEN KNOWN TO HAVE A STROKE OF CREATIVITY AT THREE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING."

# Stroke of Creativity

**CALVIN RICHARDSON  
BRINGS OUT THE BEAUTY  
IN EVERY KNIFE**

STORY BY JOSHUA SWANAGON, PHOTO BY CALVIN RICHARDSON

**HE** admits that some of his designs were accidents, and he has been known to have a stroke of creativity at three o'clock in the morning.

He is Calvin Richardson, and he entered the realm of knife making in May, 2011.

## INSPIRATION

Having grown up with a fascination of knives, swords and axes, Richardson has always been mesmerized by the flow of lines and the expression of function.

Drawing his inspiration from knife-

makers like Bo Randall, Jason Knight, Mike Stewart and Mace Vitale, he likes to focus on flow, performance, fit and finish. Often, he takes cues for his designs from different car shapes and various animals.

Although Calvin enjoys all aspects of knife making, he finds the greatest pleasure in bringing out the hidden beauty in natural woods, and it shows in every

knife he creates. He works with high carbon steels like A2, 1084, and 52100 along with the occasional CPM 154 stainless. His favorite woods include desert ironwood, cocobolo, stabilized African blackwood, curly KOA and stabilized buckeye burlap, and he focuses on strongly-executed grinds that flow into a well-shaped handle with an outstanding look and feel.

## PRODUCTION

Having forged a few knives, Calvin prefers stock removal, and enjoys producing large fighters and choppers. Calvin issues both production and custom knives out of his shop in Fulton, Missouri, but is leaning toward growing the production side and scaling back on his custom work. This will allow him to both lower his prices and make more of his work available.

With a current waiting list of six months for all custom work, Calvin is happy to take customer requests. However, as production picks up, the waiting period for custom work will get longer, so you might want to get him while the getting is good. **KI**



Calvin Richardson says he has always been mesmerized by the flow of lines.

## HOW TO FIND HIM

[www.Facebook.com/CalvinRichardsonKnives](http://www.Facebook.com/CalvinRichardsonKnives)

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Made in the USA for over 25 years, Flexcut carving knives offer maximum performance. The Carvin' Jack Collection™ of woodcarving jack knives feature high-carbon steel blades that are hand-sharpened to a razor finish and really hold an edge. **All products are unconditionally guaranteed or your money back.**

## Detail Jack®

### Specifications

**Blade Steel:** 1095 HC

**Blade Length/ Type:**

1 ½ inch Detail Knife

**Closed Length:** 4 ¼ inches

**Handle Material:** 6061

Anodized aluminum,  
Brass rivet fasteners

**Blade Lock:** Liner

**Weight:** 2.2 oz

**MSRP:** \$39.95



## Whittlin' Jack®

### Specifications

**Blade Steel:** 1095 HC

**Blade Length/ Type:** 1 ½

inch Detail Knife & 2 inch

Roughing Knife

**Closed Length:** 4 ¼ inches

**Handle Material:** 6061

Anodized aluminum,  
Walnut veneer inlay,

Brass rivet fasteners

**Weight:** 3 oz

**MSRP:** \$52.95



## Tri-Jack Pro®

### Specifications

**Blade Steel:** 1095 HC

**Blade Length/ Type:** 2 inch

Roughing Knife, 1 ½ inch

Detail Knife, 1 inch

Mini-Cutting Knife

**Closed Length:** 4 ¼ inches

**Handle Material:** 6061

Anodized aluminum,  
Cherry veneer inlay,

Brass rivet fasteners

**Blade Lock:** Liner

**Weight:** 4 oz

**MSRP:** \$89.95



## Pocket Jack®

### Specifications

**Blade Steel:**

1095 HC

**Blade Length/ Type:** 1 ½

inch Detail Knife, Straight

Gouge, Gouge Scorp,

and V- Scorp

**Closed Length:** 4 ¼ inches

**Handle Material:** 6061

Anodized aluminum,  
Brass rivet fasteners

**Blade Lock:** Clip

**Weight:** 3 oz

**MSRP:** \$86.95



## Carvin' Jack®

### Specifications

**Blade Steel:** 1095 HC

**Blade Length/ Type:**

1 ½ inch Detail Knife,

Straight Gouge, Gouge

Scorp, V-Scorp, Hook Knife, and Chisel

**Closed Length:** 4 ¼ inches

**Handle Material:** 6061 Anodized

aluminum, Bubinga veneer inlay,

Brass rivet fasteners

**Blade Lock:** Clip

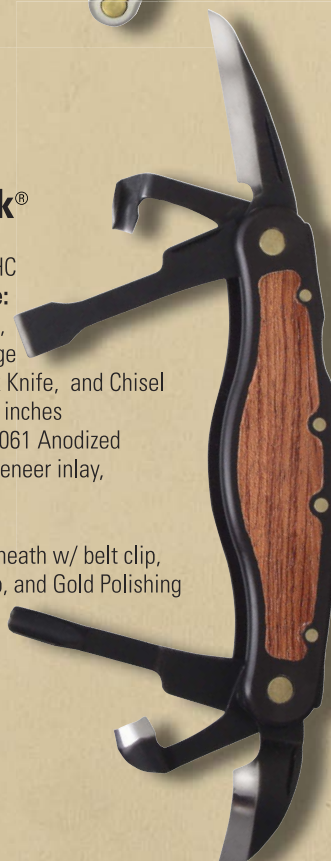
**Includes:** Leather Sheath w/ belt clip,

Sharpening SlipStrop, and Gold Polishing

Compound

**Weight:** 3.5 oz

**MSRP:** \$149.95



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Model: R11609 Mossy Oak®

Blade: 3 1/4" 440 Stainless Steel

Handle: 4 1/4" Pink Camo Aluminum



### R1Ti: Aluminum Folder

Model: R11509 Large

Blade: 3 5/16" 440 Stainless Steel

Handle: 4 1/2" Aluminum



### F.A.S.T.® Large Folder

Model: R18214 Mossy Oak®

Blade: 3 5/8" 440 Stainless Steel

Handle: 5" Obsession® Aluminum



### R51® Assisted Opening Folder

Model: R11600

Blade: 2 7/8" 440 Stainless Steel

Handle: 4 1/2" Aluminum



### F.A.S.T.® 2.0 Large Folder

Model: R11615 Mossy Oak®

Blade: 3 5/8" 440 Stainless Steel

Handle: 5" Blaze™ Aluminum



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Model: R19761 Mossy Oak®

Blade: 5 1/4" 440 Stainless Steel

Handle: 4 1/4" Blaze™ Camo Aluminum  
with Ballistic Sheath



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